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MAY 10 2004

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Illustration by Peter Dinklage for the cover story

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## OUR OWN GREAT WALL

The Paul Martin Liberals follow this rule:  
if Jean Chrétien did it, it must be wrong

YEARS AGO, the comic strip *Doonesbury* carried a segment in which the redoubtable Honey recentral her experiences working as a translator for Chairman Martin in his house. One week begins, she said, with Mao ordering that the Great Wall be torn down because it was a symbol of China's feudal past. Honey nodded acceptance, and did nothing. The next day, Mao informed Honey that he had reconsidered, and wanted it reassembled. Honey

again agreed—and waited. The next day, the wall was impressed. Mao then she had earned out both orders successfully—and that the Great Wall was in place, looking exactly as it always did.

There are a couple of lessons in that story for Paul Martin's election. Liberals—and one of them Martin needs his own version of the *Doonesbury* Honey by his side. Ever since the family took over from Jean Chrétien in PM last December, it's seemed that Martin and his senior people can't stop naming—seemingly trying to gallop away from the memory of Chrétien, and thus introducing confusion as quickly as they can justify one. The majority government Martin presides over in the House of Commons is the PM's version of the Great Wall. It may be a great achievement, but why he didn't create it, he doesn't value it. That's despite the fact that what comes in its stead after an election is much less done, as we see by a series of pitiful indications the strong possibility of a minority government.

One of the strange things about Martin as both person and politician is he has ruled that it's an established policy work who is always at the market for creative new ideas. That even good things are best in moderation—and as a finance minister, Martin's enthusiasm for innovation was never countervailed by Chrétien's conservatism. Martin challenged his then boss to push ahead, Chrétien, as even Martin has acknowledged in the past, relied in some of his less well thought-out ideas. For a long time, both men benefited from their differences.

But Martin and his people, in their haste to distance themselves from the sort of Chrétien's last couple of years in office, have overlooked the qualities that won him

“The majority government Martin leads is a great achievement—but since he didn't create it, he doesn't value it.”

those majority governments as PM. In his early days in office in particular, Chrétien made determinedly to two beliefs: that it was best to pursue a long-term strategy that would not raise expectations too high, and that as PM it was better to be seen too late rather than too often.

Now, it's clear in as Martin and his people are intent on proving that they can do better by following their opposite instincts. In fact, there's a sense among many Canadians that the volume of Martin's rhetoric in office so far points for exceeds the volume of actual achievements. And there's much evidence that the Liberals' enthusiasm for an election is shared by much of the electorate. One way, as Paul Wells points out (page 18), is that a Liberal tactic in the campaign to come will be to point Conservative leader Stephen Harper as someone who would resemble Canada—thus implying that Martin, the guy who has talked so much about the need for change, should be seen by common as representative of the status quo. Would the Liberals suffer year down the Great Wall, or enjoy it as it is? Do they know? And where are you, Honey, when we need you?

Anthony Wilson Smith

antonys@maclean.ca or in context in The Editor's Letter

## MACLEAN'S

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A guide to the on demand world **Integration**

**Integrationphobia.**  
Sooner or later, you will have to deal with it.



Your CEO wants to become an on demand business. He wants the sales people to have the same customer information as the support people. He wants manufacturing on the same page as distribution. And he wants you to make it possible.

Yes. You. You have to integrate your systems—not just internally, but also externally. It's a daunting task, for any company. Luckily IBM and IBM Business Partners have integration solutions like middleware that can integrate diverse systems—without starting from scratch (no rip and replace). Solutions that will help your systems work together in harmony. Information flows freely. Customer needs appear and are capitalized on, quickly. It's one step closer to a more flexible business. One that's responsive to change. Resilient. And ready to help your CEO meet the demands of an on demand world.

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"I hope Air Canada can survive. Whether it was Tokyo or Toronto, they always provided me, a lowly student, with a decent seat and good service." —Jamil M. Eliezer, Edmonton

### Turbulence

to report to you story about the problem facing Air Canada? "The death warden," *Business*, April 26) it never ceases to amaze me how these authors see Canadians as being Air Canada's bugaboo and for the populace and has returned several times over the ten dollars tried to build it. It is known, the world over as one of the best airlines for its safety record as well as the quality and expertise of its employees. Do you think Giorgio Ingegnier, Canada's could find the void of Air Canada was to find? That is like comparing? Elsevier to Loblaws. It is time the Liberal government stopped up to the plane and took some responsibility for the airline men they created. Should Air Canada fail, we surely all would be the losers, so wouldn't it be nice to look upon ourselves as winners for a change?

Brian Mahoney, October



Canada needs a national flag carrier—WorJet and Jetgo are not viable alternatives for the business traveller. The Liberals allowed Air Canada to put Canadian Airlines—a great airline—out of business and then allowed a poorly managed airline—Air Canada—to take it over. Absolute stupidity. If Air Canada goes bankrupt, this is partially the fault of Liberal policy. I, along with many other business travellers, will remember the party not to vote for come election day.

Jenssen, Kvaloy, and Harnadsson

### In the Key of Krill

In his zeal to focus on the Diana Krill-Elvis Costello collaboration ("Krill comes home," *Cover*, April 26), Brad Wells has overlooked

**Humane or brutal?** | The seal hunt is guaranteed to anger someone.

One sure way to stir up controversy is to publish a photo of young seals killed on the Canadian ice floes. The picture in our April 28 issue of a "helpless seal with his flippers alongside" wrote Lynn Briggs of London, Ont., "tells me nothing profoundly sad about and outrageous." Toronto's Christine Korcak asked: "Must we not devise a way to take life without such object brutality?"

It appears that the current Liberal government is not going to help out Air Canada.

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and omitted from his list the superb 2002 release of *Thurs Krall Lewis Patti*—the very best demonstration of her talents as a jazz singer. **Earl Hurdle, Tucson**

Oliver Kroll is studying  
Karl Marx in German, Mar

### Stereotypical fun

As a Japanese expatriate living in North America for more than a quarter of a century, I read Steve Burgess's article on his trip to Tokyo with great interest. "Found in translation," *Asian Journal*, April 2011. I was aware that there was controversy surrounding Shigeo Coppola's last film, *Translucence* for his portrayal of Japanese culture and people. I liked the film. I did not find its depiction of Japanese people insensitive or offensive. Admittedly, there are several observations made in the movie on things or events typically Japanese, however, I don't think those scenes are anything more than the equivalent of Rick Baker poking fun at Canadian politicians and culture. Please rest assured that the average Japanese person, just like the average Canadian, does have a good sense of humour, and is able to tolerate a healthy dose of mockery.

**Ilkka Vakkari, Toronto**

I just would like to congratulate Steve Margolis for straightening things out once and for all. I am so fed up with the related Western portrayal of Japan: geisha, samurai, cyber-related gags and everything that is so out of ordinary life. Thank goodness we have someone who can shed light on those in the proper way.

Herta and Paul Amirian: Vicepresident

## Rude legacy

Journalist with Allen Lovegrove, while condemning their apocalyptic cynicism as the problem with today's youth, expressed his own signed nostalgia for a fictitious utopia that was the 1960s ("The decade," *Letters*, April 26). Sure, the counterculture movements of the '60s stopped a war, enhanced racial and gender relations and created some more of that over-abundant "awareness" that they also produced a generation of selfish consumers who succeeded in compartmentalizing the planet into resource situations, demographic targets and market forces—dominating every following generation, in ultimate irony, to be no more aware than



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statement to be utilized in the pursuit of money. And these sold-out dreamers have the gall to wonder what happened to "rise or raze"? I'll tell you what happened: you destroyed the planet, especially squandered and ignored the potential of the society you imagined, and created a world where every single one of those which makes us human is for sale. I hope that my generation won't turn out as corrupt as the baby boomers. I'll miss, thanks for nothing.  
**Dina Korveit, Calgary**

I am the 39-year-old mother of a 12- and nine-year-old, and I consider people we encounter are the baby boomers. For some reason they think society owes them something. While I think we owe them respect, because they've been on this planet longer, we do not owe them anything to assist us like their demands. What has been the point in teaching my children to respect their elders, when these people can't thank them for holding doors? They don't count themselves when they bump into my children, they feel free to loudly denigrate the appearance of teenagers. What a wonderful example they set.  
**Shelvin Fisher, Sherwood Park, Alta.**

## Bill vs. Jesus

Comparing Brian D. Johnson's review of *Kill Bill Vol. 1* and 2 ("Queen's cutting edge," *Film*, April 28) with his earlier review of *The Passion of the Christ* reveals some remarkable truth: it was the world of actual obscene martyrdom. While Johnson called *The Passion* a "pageant of sadism" — "crying up brutality of blood" — that "glance away to sensuality," he described *Kill Bill* as a "cherry blossom bloodbath" with dancing "pink apron four-piece of jazz" demonstrating a "fragile tenderness lurking beneath the cruelty." Whoseant "brutalized" the blood, the other had the "cutting edge." Hmmm. I think somebody has a serious credibility issue on their hands. Nice work, a lot less pulp and fiction please.  
**John Nounella, Toronto**

How does Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill* even come close to Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*? I find it very surprising and ironic, what disappointing that as every turn some film critic or commen-



In *Kill Bill* (top) is a "bloodbath of violence" or is it "fragile tenderness" lurking beneath cruelty?

tator is taking a shot at Gibson's film. All I can say is that Gibson has portrayed more courage and truth than any director/producer who has had a top release in the past five years. So, reviewer Brian D. Johnson keep reviewing, but there is always only one left standing.  
**Lucan Elliott, Fortis, Ont.**

I just read Brian D. Johnson's review for *Kill Bill*. That your reviewer will go through a bloodbath of violence, promises and death, in the silver screen and call it an "actual hangout of the problem. Brave, Johnson, glorifying Hollywood murder and violence. You have one ink notion of entertainment.  
**Russ Hoadley, St. John's, Nfld.**

## Khadr controversy

To enjoy the benefits of Canadian citizenship, Canadians expect responsibility and allegiance. The Khadr family has demonstrated neither ("Welcome back," *Fact Time*, April 28). Through their avowed loyalty to Osama bin Laden and contribution to the cowardly terrorism of al Qaeda, they can be considered nothing but traitors. Their rightmost support for the organization that killed Canadians on 9/11 and their presence in torture training camps clearly marks them as enemies of all that Canada stands for and totally unworthy of Cana-

dian citizenship. Their actions go far beyond political and ideological differences and they should be deported immediately.  
**Ron Whitehead, Dartmouth, N.S.**

## Water quality

I am deeply disturbed by your story comparing various new bottled waters to our product, Oxy Water ("Taking the waters," *Marketing*, April 12). When a credible double-blind study that is conducted and peer-reviewed by a reputable organization is totally ignored and the opinion of a doctor who obviously doesn't know what he is talking about is substituted, it speaks volumes about your desire to provide the true story. The universally accepted *Textbook of Medical Physiology* teaches that the gas (room-air and water) is low absorbency, contrary to your "expert" opinion. The double-blind study by George Washington University in Washington, D.C., found that some athletes had measurably better performance and endurance after drinking Oxy Water as opposed to distilled water. While we agree that there are many water products with dubious benefits, let us let them Oxy Water with them it more than just our case, it is responsible journalism.  
**Richard L. Bering, president, Oxy Water NA Inc., Columbia Ohio**

Thank you for your article on bottled water. I found it very refreshing!  
**Amanda Givens, Hamilton**

**DELIVERS 48 MEALS TO THE GALLON.**

When it comes to providing aid to the homeless, our Sallys are quite some pretty remarkable folks. You'll feel it's a shame, under bridges, even on school grounds, offering hot meals and comfort to those who need it most. But ultimately, it's you who keep it moving. Your compassion and your dollars. Please, give generously to The Salvation Army by contacting us at 1 800 SALARMY or SalvationArmy.ca. And Get Behind The Shield.

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## MACLEANS BEHIND THE SCENES



### ON GUARD FOR YOUR PRIVACY

Maclean's privacy policy is our promise to you, our subscribers, to respect your right to control the information you give us and how we use it.

"Two things are heightening people's awareness of privacy issues right now," says John Matsykis, who manages the privacy process for Maclean's. "One is growing annoyance over unwanted electronic junk mail, or spam; the other is the federal privacy law that came into full effect this year."

That law, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, regulates how personal data is

used by the private sector. Phased in over three years, it was first applied in 2001 to organizations such as Maclean's that operate across provinces.

But, for at least a decade before the law was introduced, Maclean's has adhered to the Canadian Marketing Association's Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. These include providing a simple method for people to remove their names from marketing campaigns using the association's "do not mail/do not call" service.

"The laws today are not dramatically different from the principles Maclean's has always followed to protect subscribers' personal information," says Matsykis. "We respect your right to control your personal information."

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## Iraq | Fresh horrors—and declining support in the States

Facing mounting emergency in Iraq, U.S. forces continued their attacks against the Sunni town of Fallujah while maintaining pressure on Najaf, where Iranian Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi militia are holed up. U.S. air strikes against marauders in Fallujah came in spite of a declared ceasefire that had been untested to facilitate negotiations. The ongoing violence and mounting casualties came as a new poll found that support in the United States for the Iraq war has dropped 50 to 47 per cent in April from 58 per cent in March and 65 per cent in December. And that poll was taken before it was widely reported last week that some U.S. troops had reportedly tortured and abused Iraqi prisoners of war. The reports were accompanied by disturbing photos of bound and often naked captives and their

One of the released pictures of Iraq prisoners being tortured or abused

unlawful convictions. But so far, the rise in anti-war sentiment has not translated into increased support for Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

### A REMORSELESS, BLOODY TIDE

April was the deadliest month for coalition soldiers since the war began in March 2003. In total, 146 troops (including 738 Americans) have been killed. The civilian toll is much higher: an imprecise survey of news and other reports puts the number of deaths between 5,000 and 11,000



## ScoreCard



### SCREEN

Newt Gingrich's influence run is joined from Ontario leader Stelmach. It's remarkable, after a year and a half, that he's still in the game.



### RANSOM E. OLDS

The last of his chairman's visits off GM's assembly line after more than a century of production. Doubt the U.S. in later years' name stood for freedom, but don't write Olds off yet. Just like "Red" Chevrolet some years back, expect a retro renaissance.



### U.S. ARMY

How much more is the U.S. military? It's not just the war in Iraq, but the war in Afghanistan. The U.S. Army is the only one in the world that can do both. It's not just the war in Iraq, but the war in Afghanistan. The U.S. Army is the only one in the world that can do both.



### VOXTEL (GAGAN)

Never was a stock for the squeamish, but now it's plugging away at the head office for a long time. It's not just the war in Iraq, but the war in Afghanistan. The U.S. Army is the only one in the world that can do both.

## Mansbridge on the Record



## SHADES OF THE CHIEF

With his bitter comments, Joe Clark is sounding a lot like Diefenbaker

IS JOE CLARK morphing into John Diefenbaker? In the Chief's final years on Parliament Hill, he turned into a curmudgeon, often bitter polemicist who never forgave or forgot those who had engineered or supported his downfall as leader. He still got a lot of attention, and barked in it when he did, but he never acknowledged that any of those who followed him could meet the standards he laid himself out. During his own leadership, Joe Clark knew how difficult Diefenbaker could be, but managed the situation well—he ensured that the former leader got the respect he craved, the office he desired, and the chance to speak on the issues he wanted, when he wanted. But now, Clark himself is being described as a bitter man who hasn't forgotten those who led the various campaigns to dump him.

It's not entirely fair because, as Clerklike the first to point out, he put the past behind him by working closely for Brian Mulroney, who succeeded him. But Clark was different: the former Alliance and Reform member who briefly joined in coalition with the old Progressive Conservatives under his leadership, and against any merger with the new, spent most of the year. Now he's seen by those who support the newly formed Conservative party as the one who is this generation's Diefenbaker.

But he did beat Pierre Trudeau, and no one else can say that, and he was prime minister. But it's hard to find any highlights from those nine months, while lowlights—from the botched promise to move the Canadian embassy from 101 Ave. to Jerusalem, to the disastrous attempt to push through an 18-cow wagon, gave him a taste of his government's own right there in the history books. Through the Mulroney years, Clark managed the foreign affairs portfolio with discretion, fighting for an end to apartheid in South Africa. Mulroney, his former adversary, then turned to him to help solve the constitutional issue after the failure of the Meech Lake accord.

It didn't work, but Clark had achieved elder statesman status. Rarely did anyone bring up the past. But the same old problems of the past (by now homecoming all day—there are those who see Clark's last meetings about Harper's presidential ambitions, who advise on them as the workings of an embittered man. So now John Diefenbaker would understand. □

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of The National. He's been in journalism for 30 years.

## FaceTime

Long time, no see

The rehabilitation of Mulroney's Clark continued with a first visit to Europe in 15 years. In Brussels, Clark, who resigned recently, announced his support for a mass-debate program, called on other leaders to do the same. He then met with European Union leaders in Brussels. Clark said that, in a pinch, he'd support Paul Martin—"the devil we know"—over the new leader of the United Right. The former PM also mentioned about Harper's views on such issues as health care and civil rights, and said he was "extremely worried" about Harper possibly leading the country. Some Conservative members went as far as to label Clark a "monster" to the party.



### Cherry bombs

It's the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party. He's been in the news for his feud with the CBC's Mackenzie King at the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party. He's been in the news for his feud with the CBC's Mackenzie King at the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party.

He's been in the news for his feud with the CBC's Mackenzie King at the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party. He's been in the news for his feud with the CBC's Mackenzie King at the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party.



### Belmont aims

Double Olympic gold medalist Myron Belton (left) is back at it with his new company, which he founded with his former partner. He's been in the news for his feud with the CBC's Mackenzie King at the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party.



### Blue Tones

Conservatives were about to get a new leader in Joe Clark. He's been in the news for his feud with the CBC's Mackenzie King at the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party. He's been in the news for his feud with the CBC's Mackenzie King at the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party.



### Belmont aims

Double Olympic gold medalist Myron Belton (left) is back at it with his new company, which he founded with his former partner. He's been in the news for his feud with the CBC's Mackenzie King at the end of the line for Clark's Conservative Party.



## WORLD

**THAILAND** More than 100 people were killed in the country's southern, predominantly Muslim, provinces. According to the defense minister, most of the dead were Muslim insurgents who had attacked police stations and security outposts. But Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra blamed his dies and drug addicts.

**TERROR** A bomb blast in Damascus damaged the Canadian embassy and a nearby Iraqi former United Nations building. Two soldiers, a policeman and a female bystander died in a subsequent gun battle. Syria had previously been considered safe from terrorist attacks.

**NORTH KOREA** In the wake of a reported mass execution on April 22 in the town of Ryanggang that killed more than 500, speculation asserted that the tragedy had resulted from a failed attempt on the life of erratic leader Kim Jong Il. His son had passed through the town nine hours before.

**U.S.** President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney were questioned in the Oval Office by the commission on analyzing the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Although nothing substantive was released about the session, Bush characterized it as "very candid," while the commission said it had been "extraordinary."

BY MICHAEL DE AGUIER



**BRITISH ARTIST** Stuart Peelman wrote and painted a new portrait of Prince Philip, complete with crown jewels, from his fingernails and a blackberry (by one slender defender). The artist said, "To show mortality because this feels as delicate as my work." Peelman wrote and the Prince had said "blackberry" when shown the work in its early stages. There will likely be other reactions.

**BARCEL** A local television station reported that the Justice Ministry may not file the battery charges against Prince Michael and Simon Archibald have been investigating gay victims made by a developer to Michael's son. According to the report, they have not found enough evidence to indict the PM.

Shirin, meanwhile, was in trouble on an

other front. A weekend referendum on his own Liberal party on the prime minister's proposal for an Israeli pullout from Gaza appeared likely to be defeated.

**Celebration** South Africa inaugurated Thabo Mbeki for a second term as president and celebrated 10 years as a multi-racial democracy. The anniversary was in large part a tribute to Nelson Mandela, 85, who spent 27 years in prison, then led the country out of apartheid and became South Africa's first black president.

**BE PREPARED** A diver off the California coast who got separated from his party was rescued by a group of Boy Scouts learning how to sail. Dan Carlock, who spent five hours in the water, had already photographed himself in case he died and his corpse was discovered.

## HEALTH

**FETAL ALCOHOL** Ontario's Ninth court unanimously on second reading for a bill that would force bars and liquor and beer stores to post signs warning women that drinking while pregnant could result in fetal alcohol syndrome. The bill was introduced by Liberal MPP Steve Parsons, whose son, Sandy, died of a brain aneurysm linked on FAS.

**SARS** Scientists in Toronto said they had uncovered a molecule in SARS patients that may be the key to developing an early and quick test for the virus. In Beijing, meanwhile, authorities reported two more SARS cases, bringing the number in the mild outbreak there to five confirmed and four suspected cases.

**WEST NILE** With summer approaching, Health Canada issued a warning for Canadians to take precautions against the mosquito-borne West Nile virus. First and foremost (wait for it) avoid bites. But people are also being urged to eliminate mosquito breeding water as possible from their property.

## CANADA

**POLICE** Toronto's beleaguered police, facing allegations of corruption, came under more pressure when it was revealed that the

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## UPFRONT

Monsters have already been investigating the force. The disclosure about the RCMP's involvement came amid revelations that, according to sources, mob figures have been heard to say they have a Toronto police officer "in our pocket."

Adding insult to injury, a news camera captured Mayor David Miller taking the visiting lord mayor of London, "by your police force in jail Mine it." Miller apologized.

**THE ARMR CASE** The federal commission looking into the case of Maher Arar got underway in Ottawa. Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, spent a year in jail in Syria, during which he says he was tortured. He was deported there by U.S. officials who doubted him during a stopover in New York City.

**HEALTH CARE** Federal Health Minister Pierre Poitras, after visiting Canada



he is not in favour of private care.

should allow experiments in private health care. Under fire from his own party colleagues as they prepare for a widely anticipated election, he issued a clarification saying private care

**TURTLE SEX** Scientists studying Great Lakes wildlife find they are finding sexual abnormalities in snapping turtles. Females are clumping in male turtles, and some can produce egg yolk proteins—a female trait. The changes are thought to be a result of industrial pollutants.

**POLITICS** Saying he was disappointed with President Jean-Charles's Liberal government.

Quebec's justice minister, Marc Bellemare, resigned. Bellemare said he was stepping down because he was frustrated with the slow pace of reforms.

**THURSDAY** At a ceremony attended by the late prime minister's sons, Alexandre and Justin, the University of Toronto's Centre for the Study of Peace and Conflict was officially named after Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

**SECURITY** On the eve of Paul Martin's first meeting in Washington with President George W. Bush, Ottawa unveiled a new \$690-million security policy. Among the federal government's measures will be tighter security at the country's ports, funding for defence for computer networks, improving the national fingerprint system through digital technology, and beefing up the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

## UPFRONT

Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



## BOUND BY RED TAPE

We draw immigrants with top skills. We're still not doing enough to let them work.

**HIS PLIGHT IS** all the more wrenching because he is a naturalist. For 22 years, he has worked everywhere, from his birthplace in Almaden, Idaho, to Bombay to Oman and Canada, always in the technical field of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning. But even though it draws employers, he has put him in charge of gorgeous projects for the last three years, he will cannot call himself a professional engineer. And he is so fearful of the accrediting authorities he will

mas are working with more than 700 groups, including the provinces, provincial social action bodies, employers, unions, community groups and of seniors, to find ways to smooth the transition into Canada.

**FINCH** are tackling the problems of engineers, doctors and nurses. There, they will use that approach for other trades and professions. "This is a highly complex issue including everything from language proficiency to skills upgrading to the development of a way to do post-Canadian assessments of skills," says Hedy Frie, parliamentary secretary to Immigration Minister Judy Sgro, who is responsible for foreign credential recognition. "It's a priority. For immigrants are finding work in their profession. We now have a new way forward across departments. And we'd like to open up a

The engineers are moving to help new cities. With federal funding, the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers will present recommendations to its members in April and May. The challenge is to get each provincial body to do different licensing rules. Among the many problems is how to help immigrants get the required Canadian experience. (The task required experience varies among provinces.) Can they do the same? Could new arrivals do so in colleges with staff shortages? Then there is the exam: how do skilled professionals remember long forgotten theories? "It's common to hear bums," says Graham Corbett, President of Astand, who is co-ordinating the labour market push. "One way is a more practical assessment, instead of a written test, to make sure they have the skills to meet our needs."

Nothing will happen overnight. So the Ottawaburgmaster keeps working—often, ironically, on systems in federal buildings. “There is something basically wrong,” he says. His sigh? “I’m thinking of opening a store.”

Mary Isachen is a political and policy writer at [www.washingtonethics.com](http://www.washingtonethics.com).

### Passages

**DIED** Mike Wadsworth was the CFL's East Division rookie of the year in 1986 and played five seasons as a defensive lineman with the Toronto Argonauts. Off the field, the Ottawa-born Jewey was the Canadian ambassador to Ireland from 1989 to 1994, before a stint as the athletic director at the



**DEAD** Former Toronto left-winger Sid Smith scored the game-winning goal in the Maple Leafs' first televised game on Nov. 1, 1952. Smith, 78, was the seventh person to be the team's captain and a two-time recipient of the Lady Byng Trophy. Smith, who was living in Wausaga Beach, Ont., died after a long illness.

**AWARDED** The Canadian Association of University Teachers' award for professional or journalistic excellence went to Ann Dowsett Johnston, Maclean's editor at large, for "Manning excellence," her coverage in the 2003 annual university ranking race.

**ARRESTED** For the second time in a month, 25-year-old Canadian Daniel J. Lachance was arrested for making pop-star Britney Spears. Both times he was found trespassing on property belonging to the singer's family. As of last week, the Quebec native was being held on US\$150,000 bail at the Minneapolis Parish Jail in Louisiana.

**RETIRED** The World Meteorological Organization has officially retired the name of **JUAN** from its list of hurricane monikers. Environment Canada added that the name be withdrawn in recognition of the impact Hurricane Juan had on the people of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The name *Juan* will be replaced.



## THE SITUATION

**THE SITUATION** continued to deteriorate in British Columbia as the government tried to order 40,000 health workers back on the job. Supported by other unions, the workers refused, raising the spectre of a general strike in the province. The government's order also included a 15 per cent wage cut and an increase in weekly working hours to 37.5 from 35.

“I am qualified. I do the same work as engineers who work beside me—but I am paid less. I am thinking of leaving my profession.”

"I am qualified. I do the same work as engineers who work beside me—but I am paid less. I am thinking of leaving my profession."

# THAT VISION THING

The election-bound PM was supposed to inspire us, but it's been big talk and small steps, says PAUL WELLS

**HISTORY MAY SET RECORD** that the last week of April 2004 was the week Paul Martin finally began to turn things around.

The Prime Minister had a successful, or at least blander first, trip to Washington. The polls finally ticked a little higher for the Liberal Party of Canada after a period of ferreting decline. Politicians and Ottawa reporters began dozing their schedules on the assumption that Martin will call a federal election on May 9 for a June 14 vote.

At a press-and-evening meeting of the Liberal caucus on April 27, Liberal MPs

were headed homeless featuring everything Stephen Harper ever said that can be made to sound scary, at least to Liberals. (In what is becoming a typical blunder that drives embittered Liberal MPs from Quebec to disunion, the pamphlet was printed in English only and offered as a clue about combating the dangerously resurgent Bloc Québécois.)

The attack against Harper is shaping up in a confluence of the Martin campaign. Harper's Conservatives "seriously don't like Canada the way it is," Martin adviser David Hume told reporters recently. "They do think it's some socialist badmaster that's in decline and they do think that it needs to be fundamentally changed."

In this phase before the storm of an election campaign, the cautious centre he predicted, maybe it's time to ask a few questions.

How did Paul Martin—the golden boy for whom Liberals hounded Jean Chrétien from office despite three majority election victories in a row—sink to the point where his own majority system as a man's edge?

"Making History" across the text of his first speech as Liberal leader became so embedded that he's reduced to running on fear and denigration of his opponents?

And when did Paul Martin become the



Instead of Making History, Martin is now running a campaign of fear against Harper

deluder of "Canada the way it is"—not an advocate of "fundamental change," but a deluder agitated?

"A year ago, all over my riding, people were asking me they couldn't support Liberals until we got rid of Chrétien's" a harlequin Liberal MP from Atlanta in Canada said last week. "Now when I go back, these people tell me, 'I miss Chrétien.'"

Already, it's hard to recall the promise



many see in Martin as recently as November, when his leadership campaign unravelled finally rolled into the Liberal convention at Toronto's Air Canada Centre. The venerable Enoch Macdonald, Richard Gwyn saw as a "fading and impractical" dose of "the vision thing" in Martin's acceptance speech—a sense of the national dream, Gwyn wrote, that only Pierre Trudeau, John Diefenbaker, Wilfrid Laurier and John

Macdonald have ever been able to inspire. The reviews didn't stay sweet for long. By March 23, the venerable Globe and Mail columnist Jeffrey Simpson said Martin had got off "to a worse start than any since Joe Clark's in 1979." Maybe that's why Clark has been expressing a grudging gratitude for Martin over Harper in the coming election (he serves a hundred years).

Of course, something big happened on the

way to the convention: the audacious general's stunning revelation of massive misappending and, perhaps, corrupt management in the sponsorship program. Chrétien rescinded after the 1995 Quebec referendum. The drop in the polls into public opinion's red zone was instantaneous. Martin's novel reply—a cross-country tour that listed words and underscored his will to agree to "get to the bottom" of the scandal—had no dif-

ferable effect on voter intention until after it had finally, inevitably, ended.

The sponsorship scandal is more problem than any prime minister should have to inhabit. But it is also hard to believe that if the scandal had never happened, a visionary Martin would today be busy making history to the sound of delighted applause from Canadians in general and the press gallery in particular.

He has other problems. Confusion: A management style built around Byzantine consensus that must endlessly bar whose

**WHEN** did the Liberals' golden boy sink to the point where the party's majority tuckers on a razor's edge?

decisions, when there are any, seem to cancel each other out. An addiction to promoting big and delivering small. And the impression that the only people in any danger from Martin's attempts to get to the bottom of wrongdoing are those who had the poor judgment to align themselves with Chrétien instead of Martin.

Martin sure talks a good game, albeit in edited and rehearsed editions. "Some people have said that it is our desire to transform the way Ottawa works, we are moving too fast," he said in a March 25 speech in Winnipeg. "I don't agree. I believe there are times when the only way to achieve great change is to shock the system. In any large institution, there is simply too much inertia supporting the status quo."

The system, for what it's worth, shooked. By some counts, one-quarter of federal civil servants have been shunted to new jobs since Martin took office. But the "system"

can't appeal to Martin's reforms, really. Like the rest of us, it's just trying to figure out what they are.

Sources say that at least three times since Martin became prime minister, the entire staff at Ottawa's enormous Pearson Building, home to the Department of Foreign Affairs, has been invited to "transition evenings" at which confused bureaucrats crowd into an auditorium and talk through their frustrations and confusion.

On some of the biggest files facing any government, confusion reigns under Martin. Take the global Kyoto accord to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a very unpopular policy in Alberta's oil patch. The Speech from the Throne that inaugurated Martin's government committed it to developing a "plan" to meet Canada's Kyoto targets. But there has been no hint of progress toward a plan. And observers are disconcertingly open as Tom Tyler, the Alberta environment minister who wants Kyoto scrapped, and David Suzuki, the environmentalist who finds Kyoto profoundly insufficient, have said they think Martin's on their side.

Now Kyoto's tough file for anyone minister who hopes to pick up seats in Quebec, where Quebec, Kyoto, and Alberta, which isn't. But Martin didn't get the job by promising to ignore differences and confuse everybody. Even when it's clear where he's going, it's often because he's giving pretty much what Quebecers are headed.

The Throne Speech announced a Centre for First Nations Government—two months after Robert Nault, Christian Indian affairs minister, announced the same thing at Vancouver. Martin showed up at Mandel as an announcement of more than \$300 million in research funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, never mentioning that the process to decide what gets the money had taken more than a year earlier.

The March budget, which earned the lobby title "New Agenda for Achievements," drew a straight line from Christian's old agenda. Budget documents were full of allude to the wisdom of John Martin's 2003 budget.

Again, just as it is. Martin's big sell this makes his modest speech fitting, so it's his dogged insistence on his own novelty that makes his refreshing Christian-era policy so funny. Martin's old-school was trumpeted for "New Approach" and "New Times." The current one is his defence on the transportation scandal and his surprising assertion that



## POGG'S THE WORD IN WASHINGTON

The foreign policy review Paul Martin has ordered is months from being completed. Yet he arrived for his first visit in Washington with design: a blunt boning with ideas for helping out in world hot spots. Where did he get them? In his key speech to the Congress for Global Development and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Prime Minister offered advice by talking Canada's founding constitutional aim—

Martin suggested new energy to be a cross-referencing role for Canada in the world.

"peace, order and good government"—was the basis for a new focus, on building stable institutions, from police forces to transport systems, in weak countries. Martin was echoing what Michael Ignatieff, the high-profile Harvard University rights professor, told foreign affairs bureaucrats in Ottawa in a March 21 lecture titled "Peace, Order and Good Government: A Foreign Policy Agenda for Canada." Sources confirmed the exact words: Christian's talk—which leaves us asking his "POGG

speech"—was caught on with Martinists. Martin offered more than fifty generalities. In a news conference after meeting with Bush, he said Canada might take on an "institutional capacity-building" role in Iraq. That squares with Ignatieff's vision of a Canada as a model in world affairs. (See Martin's call Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Prime Minister offered advice by talking Canada's founding constitutional aim—

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JOHN GORDON

he didn't know what Christian was spending during all the years Martin was the senior minister in charge of, uh, spending.

But there are areas in which Martin has been diligent in making a break from the Christian years. That's his willingness to make trouble for Christian's friends and say what, or stand aside while trouble goes made for them. Martin made a defensible case for

undoing some Christian appointees, like Ad Posen-Gallagher as ambassador to Denmark and Jean Pelletier as head of VIA Rail. But other decisions are just creepy.

What is one to make, for instance, of the refusal to let Susan Hogue run in Saint-Maurice-Champlain, Christian's old riding? Hogue is a soft-spoken former Christian press spokesman who wanted to replace

the boss as MP for the Sherbrooke area. The Quebec wing of the Liberal party told him he couldn't even seek the nomination—because he's a man.

That's odd. Close friends of Martin like Dennis Dawson and Jean Lapierre, both men, had no trouble finding Quebec ridings to name. Martin imposed an explanation it was "one of" that women be given "visible" ridings in Quebec as more women can get into Parliament.

The explanation made under scrutiny like snow in July. The ridings the party reserved for women are, for the most part, Bloc strongholds. Martin doesn't think it's "outrage" to block men out of Quebec, but ask Sheila Copps, whom Martin refused to promote in Hamilton, or Ujjal Dosanjh, the former NDP premier of British Columbia, whose gender

**KARMA** has a way of catching up with you—Martin has made novelty his watchword, but is stuck in well-worn ruts

didn't keep him from a Liberal nomination.

But the universe serves a measure of poetic justice for purveyors of the hypocrisy that has governed the Hogue affair: When Hogue proposed his nomination, his appointment was rejected unanimously by the Liberals' Quebec electoral commission. One member of that commission was a woman named Caroline Rivest. Several weeks ago she decided that Hogue's gender was a deal breaker. Since then the Liberal nomination in the geographically winnable Liberal stronghold of LaSalle-Louis. The candidate who won the nomination, Frances Scarpignone, is a man.

Karma has a way of catching up with you. Martin sounds the revolution, yet his armies' cannons fire blanks. He makes novelty his watchword but is stuck in well-worn ruts. None of this deters him. Campaignal enthusiasm worked too sharply from 1997 to 1999 and the Canada Alliance in 2000. Another might yet arise after the Conservative down in 2004.

Here, too, the leaden is staring. If Martin were to break the Conservatives using such a well-worn Liberal playbook, it would prove only that his campaign style, like his governing agenda, is dominated by the shock of the old.



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## HI HO, IT'S BACK TO WORK THEY GO

But union leaders vow the government will pay a price

**LONG SWELLS ROLL** up Newfoundland's Placentia Bay and flow thousands of feet on the purple red sand of Gooseberry Cove. In a small white cabin close to the beach, Joe and Suzanne Walsh have no problem hearing the steady beat of the waves—their isolated cabin has no electricity, no phone and only three neighbours. It's the perfect getaway, just a little over an hour and a half outside St. John's. Perfect, that is, unless you're trapped there. And on April 23, that's what happened. As the couple prepared to wrap up the weekend and return to the city, they found themselves victims of late snowstorms—and a province-wide strike that had kept 10,000 civil servants off the job since April 1. With no enough snowplows down to keep the roads clear, the RCMP warned people to stay off the Trans-Canada Highway. "There was no sense driving," said Joe Walsh. "Cars were off the road everywhere."

The Walshes are just two Newfoundlanders affected by the frozen civil service strike in the province's history. For Suzanne Walsh, a secretary at the province's only children's hospital, staying put meant missing patient-care duty. For Joe Walsh, it was a day lost at

the newspaper where he's an editor. With one out of every 10 employees in the province off the job—from health care workers and schoolteachers to liquor store employees—the strike has crunched just about every facet of life in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Early last week, the Progressive Conservative government of Premier Danny Williams tabled back-to-work legislation. It provides for no wage increases in the first two years, followed by a two-per-cent hike in 2006 and three per cent in 2007. (The unions had wanted bargaining, working a 21 per cent pay increase over three years.) Even the provincial lawyers who drafted the bill say it is one of the toughest such pieces of legislation in Canada, limiting in Canada's largest other dispute, a strike for those who don't return to their job to a supply fee. And union leaders want



Williams set the stage for the strike by freezing wages for civil servants.

their members back to work—good, they said, the legislation was unnecessary. As talks resumed, Williams postponed passage of the bill until this week to give the two sides an opportunity to reach an agreement.

The stage was set for a confrontation soon after the Conservatives won last October's provincial election. Williams, a self-made millionaire, put dealing with the \$850-million budget deficit at the top of his agenda, and announced a two-year wage freeze for the civil service. The unions claimed he was "bargaining in public" and promised to strike the flowers their contract expired. The province prepared for a bitter conflict—the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary was outed with \$10,000 in riot gear.

In the end, there was little violence. But many are wondering just what was gained if no agreement is reached; the government will impose a settlement no different from what is offered on the eve of the strike. The union leadership feared that offer alone without a vote by their membership. And even with the unions' return to work, the province's economy will be reeling for some time. Instead of earning anywhere from \$520 to \$990 a week, civil service member took home just \$200 a week in strike pay—a huge amount of buying power lost forever.

Not surprisingly, simmering resentments remain. Union leaders said they won't forget Williams and his Conservatives' handling of the situation for as long as they're in office. "We will haunt them," vowed Fred Douglas of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. "And they will wish to hell they had run for dog catcher!"



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daughter of my boss. She came to my village to see how the Arabs lived. I had to hide her from my parents, but it was worth it."

Bash Rams and Faisal tell me that if they were paid 100 shekels by an Arab boss, and 10 shekels by a Jewish boss, they would work for the Jewish boss because "Arabs treat their underlings like slaves." Interestingly, the Atars' second son, Dori, who manages a supermarket, tells me he prefers Arab workers. "The Arabs will work 15-hour days," he says, "while the Jews will come at nine and will already want to go home by five."

The guest workers are another component of this strange mix. With their ubiquitous headscarves, from sunrise to sunset they are like quiet shadows in the fields. At Israel becomes more modern, lower and lower. In truth, have any role for farm work. In more peaceful times, it would be done by Palestinians, but since the security fence has gone up, that labor pool can no longer be relied on. So Israeli have to import guest workers.

The man in the Atars' employ is Mui Tun Sai. He lives in a shack on the edge of the fields and comes out only to work. He is in his 20s and intends to stay for two years, hoping to return to Thailand with enough money to build a house and get married. No matter how hard I get at picking vegetables, I can never match his speed and ease.

Eventually, every day many trucks arrive at the Atar shop from Jerusalem and the West Bank, carrying vegetables. Goods may pass the border, but not people. But then again, onions and potatoes don't blow themselves up on buses. When I ask Bash about the fence, he answers sadly, "Don't ask. Just look at my life. It's like a zoo, a human zoo."

"You're right as in the army, but he's a soldier, he's a dancer."

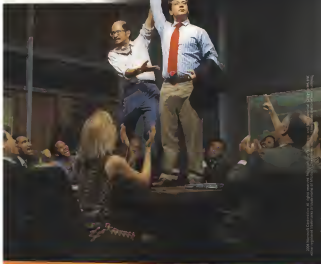
Now is the Atars' fourth son and the only one to work in the fields. He doesn't have to, he just does. He is also serving in the army, but managed to talk his way into an easy job. He is an officer's driver in a nearby base, and spends his days sleeping in the vehicle. "Faisal's no soldier, he's a dancer," his brothers say with mock reproach. He is a poet as well as the nightclubs. He wears flashy clothing and spikes his hair with copious amounts of gel. He has a mustache and

**FOR Jews and  
Palestinians, the barrier  
that Israel is now erecting  
will never bring true  
separation**

teaches music. Faisal's son, Hana, also known as Mahe, is also about to join the army. I'm amazed to see he also favors flashy clothing, spiky hair and trance and techno music.

The two sides live together. This land, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean, is a land of two peoples and if nothing will change that. The barrier that Israel is now erecting will never bring true separation. Neither will political machinations ever bring, on either side, a government completely free of the interests of the other. And neither of these peoples will ever leave. In the water they drink, the crops they grow, the places they pray, the land they love, the Jews and the Arabs are stuck together. □

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# THE NORTEL SHIPWRECK

It'll take more than a sure-handed Navy man to steer the firm into calm waters

HE WAS SUPPOSED to be the solution—a dose of sanity for a company that flew too close to the sun, and fell. Methodical and low key, yet deeply driven, Frank Dunn spent a quarter-century climbing the corporate ladder at Canada's flagship telecom communications company, attaining the exalted position of chief financial officer. But when he replaced the beleaguered John Roth as chief executive of Nortel Networks Corp. in November 2000, the celebrations were muted. By then, questions were swirling about Nortel's financial reporting methods. More than a few analysts noted that Dunn had been holding the purse strings at the company's stock crash a year earlier.

"There was a ton of criticism, by our shop and others, about Nortel's accounting when Dunn was financial chief," recalls Al Rosen, a Toronto-based forensic accountant whose firm advises pension and mutual funds on Canadian companies. Among the complaints, the company appeared to have overestimated its quarterly results by recording revenues not yet received from clients—a practice Rosen says should have raised alarms on Nortel's board of directors. "There were good, positive reasons for keeping [Dunn] around," he adds. "But you don't keep him around without some very strong oversight."

The point? While it's easy to blame Nortel's losses, arguably more damaging, according to Dunn and two other executives who were asked last week, anyone wishing to learn from this debacle must surely look past the cascade wars, to the directors of the company and the rules within which they operate. If reports of questionable accounting were circulating when Dunn was CFO, why did the board promote him? Where was the board's audit committee when the irregularities first emerged? And if there's nothing forcing boards to keep their managers in line, what does that say about Canada as an investment environment?

Those were among the troubling questions

## TWICE BURNED

Millions of Nortel investors lost money when the stock tanked in 2000 Q4, and many were hurt again by last week's free fall.



**FIRED**

**HIRED**

Dunn CFO leaves behind an accounting mess. Dunn will have to clean things up.

**IF REPORTS** of questionable accounting were circulating when Dunn was CFO, why did the board promote him?

after the telecommunications equipment manufacturer yet again dashed hopes of investors, who had brief visions of Nortel returning to the coliseum that once dominated Canada's corporate landscape, now swirling in much as \$124.50 per share. In the hours after Dunn's dismissal, a world-

wide sell-off ensued, shoring 31 per cent, or \$9.7 billion, from Nortel's stock value and prompting speculation of takeover bids by multinational telecoms (by week's end, none had materialized). "Tech stocks, pension funds, mutual funds and moon and pop portfolios all took hits as investors succumbed to the peters, creating a touch of uncertainty that sweeps through Canadian markets. And it may be a while before the cloud lifts. After already missing results from previous years, Nortel now estimates that its 2003 profit of US\$732 million will likely be cut in half, yet cannot say when it will produce a reliable set of numbers. "It's just scary," says Bill MacIntyre, president of Parvus Corp., which monitors corporate governance for institutional investors. "We have all these weaknesses, and now everybody's waiting for the other shoe to drop."

Again, most analysts who watch the company's operations seem untrifled, pointing to its well-earning fundamentals and successful forays into new technologies. Nortel remains the largest telecommunications equipment maker on the continent with 35,000 employees worldwide and a market capitalization of \$32.3 billion, and has recently scored large contracts in the emerging fields of wireless broadband and voice-over-the-Internet systems. "Some of these victories suggest the company's doing quite well," says Mark Kirby, senior vice-president of Advisus management consultants, who specializes in the information and communications sector. "This is a major bump in Nortel's road to recovery. But I don't think it's harbinger of more bad news to come."

Maybe not for analysts. But with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Ontario Securities Commission both investigating Nortel's accounting practices, and the RCMP making "internal" inquiries, the company is sure to become a lightning rod for demands of more rigorous corporate governance in the coming months. The lavish bonuses it offered to executives for

# ROGER FEDERER

## sportsnet Magazine



ATHENS OLYMPICS

## Opa and glory

Canada's athletes go for gold

NHL

Stanley Cup heroes

GOLF

The Canadian Open turns 100

CFL

Down of the dead



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**With baseball, hockey and golf in full swing, sports fans are in paradise. And the Olympics haven't even started.**

A long list of regular guys have emerged from the shadows to make a profound impact on a Stanley Cup series — just

Later this year, the Canadian Open will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as one of the three oldest national open golf championships in the world. The Canadian Open was the first pro tournament won by Arnold Palmer and, as four-time golfer

While higher profile annual sporting events like the Stanley Cup playoffs capture our attention year after year, our Olympic athletes train hard in relative obscurity for their quadrennial chance to establish themselves as the best in the

It's a tough life being a sports fan. 

**EAT MY DUST**  
 champion P. O'Neil  
 trident of the 100  
 yard race and the 200  
 yard race. He was  
 the first to win the  
 100-yard race in  
 1990 and the 200  
 yard race in 1991.  
 O'Neil is a member  
 of the U.S. Olympic  
 team.

[illegible]

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High flier: Poiré shows his acrobatic skills as he performs a backflip during a routine at last year's Pairs on Ice event.

# Opa and glory

*Canada's athletes have a good chance of winning medals at this year's Summer Olympics in Athens, as long as the bus gets to the stadium.*

By Jack Todd

Those who have been there say that the Summer Games in Athens this August will make Atlanta's infamous Dogpatch Olympics of 1996 seem a marvel of organization. For those with longer memories, Montreal set the standard in 1976, when the roof on Jean Drapreau's billion-dollar boondoggle was collapsing and athletes marched into the Olympic Stadium for the Opening Ceremonies behind construction workers with shovels.

There is a lesson, however, to be learned from Montreal and Atlanta. When the last bus has been lost and the last tourist forced, we remember the performances and forget the rest. There will be some fine Canadian athletes competing in Athens against a backdrop of seething buses, missing roads, and

of rusty barbed wire along the marathon course. Transport problems, train tracks that run to nowhere and profound security worries. They will live through glory and heartbreak; they will surprise us with unexpected triumphs and nightmare defeats. There will be athletes who, like the triathlete Susan



Photo: David J. Phillip

Whitfield, escape from potholes to win Olympic gold, and there will be others like the downhill skier Michael Smith, who seems to crumble when it matters most.

There are the Summer Olympics, so don't expect a repeat of Salt Lake City, when Team Canada capped a spectacular Winter Games performance by winning gold medals on women's and men's hockey. Canada will, however, be a presence in Athens.

Among the Canadian favorites will be the judoka Nicolas Gill, a silver medalist in 2000, and the 100-kilogramer who British brawler in Sydney and has one silver and two bronze medals in the close and yet is the world's most dangerous to lose credit. Kayaker Caroline Bruner, who won silver in Sydney, and the 100-kilogramer Kyle Sells, who was the gold in the floor exercise

at the 2000 world's high jumper Mark Boswell, cyclist Lynn Bessette and Canadian freestyle skier Michael Smith, who won silver in Sydney, and the 100-kilogramer Kyle Sells, who was the gold in the floor exercise

After his triumph in Sydney, Iqbal has faced a period of difficulty on the Olympic circuit. He suffered a serious spinal injury, which required a permanent metal plate to be implanted in his spine. His father died in his weight category the 66-kilogram class, was abolished.

Iqbal provided one of the enduring images of Sydney in 2000 when he won Olympic gold in the much heavier 74-kilogram class. Simply to make the Canadian team he had to win a two-hour grudge match with Canadian rival Zoltan Hargady. These heats because so heated that Hargady punched Iqbal, opening up a cut under his eye, and Iqbal responded with an unprecedented slap to Hargady's face.

Three McLaren at Simon Fraser University from where he graduated with a degree in criminal justice after winning his Olympic gold medal.

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Iqbal is a native of Parkville, Ont., will turn 21 on the day of the closing ceremonies in Athens last August. In Paris, she faced from relative obscurity to become the first Canadian woman to win an individual gold medal.

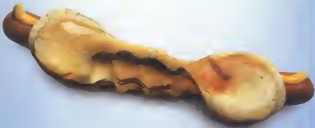
## PEDAL PUSHERS

Cyclist pro David J. Phillip, center, 1995 Canadian National Champion, and American James Friel, left, 1995 American National Champion, will be in line of Canada's Olympic medal hopes this year in Athens.

Certainly no-defending Olympic champion from a silver medal in 2000 in the 100-kilogram class. If he can pull off another Olympic gold, he will be one for the ages.

**Shane Perle's Pelicans** If he can pull off another Olympic gold, he will be one for the ages. Pelicans is a native of Parkville, Ont., will turn 21 on the day of the closing ceremonies in Athens last August. In Paris, she faced from relative obscurity to become the first Canadian woman to win an individual gold medal.

Pelicans is a native of Parkville, Ont., will turn 21 on the day of the closing ceremonies in Athens last August. In Paris, she faced from relative obscurity to become the first Canadian woman to win an individual gold medal.



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virtual gold medal at the World Track and Field Championships. Feliciano's upset triumph in the 100 metre hurdles made her one of the favorites for the Summer Olympics.

“  
I have no  
fear of these girls  
anymore.”

”

Feliciano has since turned pro. In 2004, she turned future brother-in-law Arnold Schwarzenegger into her agent, signed a sponsorship deal with Nike and showcased her first year of eligibility at the University of Illinois, where she won those NCAA championships. “At least I have no fear of these girls anymore,” Feliciano said after her triumph in Paris. “Maybe they can start being scared of me and give some attention.”

With the retirement of sprinters Donovan Bailey and Bruce Sims, after their spectacular Tokyo 1996 display, Feliciano will get plenty of attention as Canada's best hope on the track in Athens.

**Divers Alexandre Despatie and Ernie Reynolds:** There are no more things at the Olympic Games (see Waltherstein, 100 m).

But Despatie and Reynolds are about as close as you get. With Vancouver's Myke Hanley, they make the diving squad by



Doing the Dink Reynolds, left, will try to use his late to win an Olympic medal, while his better brother Alex Despatie has retired.

for the strongest components of Team Canada in Athens.

In Barcelona last July, they were chosen the first Canadian world champions in the 10 metre platform dive by scoring two perfect 10s on her final dive to beat

two Chinese divers with a score of 387.45, 58 points better than the gold medal performance in Sydney. The Belgians' home team is not as accurate in an outgiving, as the retired Anne Montminy with whom she won a silver medal in the synchronized competition in Sydney, but she has already accomplished something Montminy never did when she won a world class

gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur at the tender age of 13. He was still the youngest athlete on the Canadian team two years later in Sydney when he finished fourth in the platform, just out of the medals.

As usual, Despatie will have his hands full with the talented Chinese in Athens, but he will turn 19 a week before the 2004 Olympics begin, and he appears ready to run in a dominant performance.

If, that is, they remember to fill the pool in Athens. ☺

Jack Field is a columnist with the Montreal Gazette.



Looking for Canada's Olympic medal? David Lyle will be one for the ages if he wins Olympic gold.

ROGERS SPORTSWORLD MAGAZINE

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# Stanley Cup heroes

A moment of glory goes a long way, especially if it comes in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

By Scott Burnside

**R**emember Chris Kunitz? Better yet, do you remember why? After appearing briefly with the Los Angeles Kings in 1988, Kunitz spent the 1988-1989 hockey season playing in Switzerland. He returned to Midland, Ore., where he was building a house, in March, when the Kings asked him to join the team for the 1989 playoffs.

On a line with John Duvall and Steve Kasper, Kunitz played 11 games and scored nine goals in the first round. He helped the Kings upset the heavily favored Edmonton Oilers and scored six power-play goals in the seven-game series. The Kings lost to the Calgary Flames in the second round, but Kunitz still holds the record for power-play goals in a single series.

Kunitz scored just two more playoff goals before his NHL career ended in 1990. And even though he gave a stellar performance in Tampa Bay's inaugural season in 1992, scoring 27 goals in 68 games, his previous playoff heroics stunted him. "I think I was still trying to prove what I could do," says the 41-year-old father of two who now heads a corporate L10 and DVD company in Midland called Pro Marketing.

If there's a permanence to the unexpected exploits of players

corresponding periods for being so remembered.

Druce played a third of the 1989-1990 season with the VHL's Baltimore Skaggs, but he made second in NHL playoff power-play goals, scoring eight for the Washington Capitals during the 1990 playoffs. Druce scored nine times in the Capitals' five-game series over the Rangers in the second round.

And he's 16 points in 15 games (11 goals and three assists) earned him a share of the Capitals franchise record for goals in a playoff series. Although the Capitals were swept by Boston in the conference final, it marked the most successful playoff run for the franchise at the time.

"I don't say there was one name where I said, 'Oh my God, I'm



Kunitz put out left Chris Kunitz as NHL, won the power-play goal in a playoff series.



Kasper in action. Washington's Steve Kasper scored goals in five games against the Rangers in 1989.

great."

At least Druce could look forward to another 30 years in the NHL and 38 more playoff games.

With Phoenix, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh, Steve Penney played in only one more NHL playoff series after his stunning debut with the Montreal Canadiens in 1984.

Penney had spent most of the 1980-1989 season with the Nova Scotia Voyageurs of the IHL. But as a surprise starter for the Habs in the spring of 1984, Penney was sensational.

Druce had finished 29 points ahead of Montreal that season, but the Canadiens snatched the franchise and it was for two games of the best of five series. By the time the team returned to Montreal for the third game,

Penney was being compared to Ken Dryden in the 1971 playoffs. "I liked it," Penney says. "But it wasn't a big deal for me at the time."

Penney and the Canadiens swept the Bruins, then knocked off the Montreal Quebec Nordiques in six games. It was an especially emotional series for the Quebec City native, whose father-in-law was the dressing-room attendant for the visiting team in Quebec.

The following season Penney played 54 games for the Canadiens. The team advanced to meet Quebec again in the second round of the playoffs, but lost a

six-game series. He played 18 more games with Montreal in 1989 and 75 games with the Winnipeg Jets between 1988 and 1989 and never appeared in another NHL playoff game.

"I think it's a human nature to always cheer for the underdog, the less-known," says Penney now 43 and a sales rep for an evening manufacturer near Quebec City. But Penney still wonders how it happened. "It's like a question mark hanging over my head. Why and why and why?"

Scott Burnside is a senior writer for Sports Illustrated.



A hero in memory: Michael Garsd vs. Steve Penney played in only one NHL playoff series after a stunning debut with the Habs.

## Tap-tap-tapping at Stanley's Cup

**E**very year, however, St. Jacques has the Stanley Cup to himself for a week or his critics in the Montreal area. An employee of Balfour Productions, St. Jacques engraves the names of each member of the winning team on Lord Stanley's mug.

The Cup is sterling silver and, if St. Jacques taps her hammer too hard, she could dent it. If she taps too softly, then the letters don't indent as well as she would like. Each series takes about 30 minutes to engrave. "We have to be consistent with the length of each hammer," says St. Jacques, the fourth official engraver of the Stanley Cup.

St. Jacques gets feedback only when she makes a rare mistake: Colorado Avalanche forward Adam Oates made a mistake when his name was misspelled as Adam Oates-Dewberry. So far, that's the only correction of a misspelled name that can be attributed to St. Jacques.

Alan Adams

## FIVE BIG MOMENTS: NHL highlights from the last 50 years

**BOB BAUN**  
Toronto Maple Leafs  
April 23, 1964

Detroit's Hankie Hughes of his while Baun scores the overtime winner in Game Six of the first series against Detroit, forcing a seventh game, which the Leafs win 4-0.

**MARK MESSIER**  
New York Rangers  
May 25, 1994

The New York Rangers are trailing New Jersey 3-2 in Game Six of the conference final when Messier scores the tying and winning goals. The Rangers go on to defeat the Devils and then

the Canadiens, capturing their second Stanley Cup, Phil Esposito and their teammates. The Habs go on to a seven-game first-round victory over Chicago to win the Cup, and Dryden goes on to the Hall of Fame.

**PAUL ROY**  
Montreal Canadiens, 1993

After losing the first two games of the playoffs to Quebec, Roy leads the Habs to the Cup, winning 10 straight overtime games.

**KEN DRYDEN**  
Montreal Canadiens, 1971

The Boston Bruins set records in victories, goals and goals during the regular season. But rookie netminder Ken Dryden, who played his first NHL game

only two months earlier, stole the show at Fenway, Boston, and their teammates. The Habs go on to a seven-game first-round victory over Chicago to win the Cup, and Dryden goes on to the Hall of Fame.

**STEVE SMITH**  
Edmonton Oilers  
April 30, 1986

Smith's career peaks off the heels of Edmonton's Game Seven. For a six-game series of the season championship turns into the winning goal for Calgary after two consecutive Stanley Cup Finals. The Oilers get a demerit, at least temporarily.

# Hey, fellas, are you still glad to see me?

Having entertained the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Nick Price and Tiger Woods, the grand old lady of Canadian golf celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

By John Gordon

She has weathered more than a few storms in her time, this old gal has. She has taken a few steps, but always turned the other cheek. She has had more than a few facelifts over the years but was never ashamed of having them publicized.

There have been literally thousands of men in her life, many of them with international reputations, but she's proud of being involved with every one.

She's the Canadian Open, which this year celebrates her centennial as the third-oldest national open golf championship in the world, trailing only the British (1860) and the U.S. (1885).

It's high time, indeed, that we applied the same who made her debut at Royal Montreal in 1884, when English ex-pats



Scotiabank Invitational Golf City, and at Toronto, became the Canadian Open's last premier venue in the 1970s.

Our lady has not been without wars, real and perceived.

She has been disparaged by sportsmen who despised her by the field name labelled her the "Yo-Napco Open." Why? Because Gilda, nicknamed in 1988 by an change in date from July be-

cause the U.S. and British Opens to separate September, cringed up support women such as Len Green (1986), Wayne Lee (1987) and Dudley Hart (1988). Of course, they were outcompeted with stars such as Curtis Strange (1985, 1987), Nick Price (1989, 1994), Mark O'Meara (1995), Hal Sutton (1999) and Tiger Woods (2000).

money-motivated generation of Tour pros into appreciating her historical significance. In 1986 *Golf Magazine* surveyed a large group of Tour pros and asked them to list the most important tournaments to win. Our Open ranked 15<sup>th</sup>. All the date change did was confirm the inevitable.

Other critics offended by the RCGA's decision in the late 1970s to make Glen Abbey the Open's semi-permanent home, called it the "Glenville Open." They conveniently ignored the fact that the course in the town west of Toronto ranked one of the premier sportsman-friendly layouts in the world. When the Open returns to The Abbey this Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, it will mark the 12<sup>th</sup> playing of the event on the Jack Nicklaus design. (Another latest contro-

versy harks over whether that is Nicklaus's first solo design, as has been claimed for decades.) The old gal has also been the victim of lies and half-truths, like the heavy nagged about her being the "Fifth major." At one time as the fabled pros, the

Canadian Open ranked just behind the modern majors: the Masters, U.S. and British Opens, and the PGA Championship.

Even Karen Hanson, director of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and owner of the Canadian Golf Museum, can't buy into that one. "Is there any time when someone said, 'I just won the fifth major?' No."

Tommy Armour said our Open was the second-greatest championship in the world, a dig at rival Walter Hagen, who had never won it.

James Barclay, author of the superb *Open in Canada: A History*, attributes the genesis of this honour to Tommy Armour, who won in 1927, 1930 and 1934. In 1928, Armour, who at that point had also won the U.S. Open, went even further. He said our Open was the second-greatest championship in

the world." Barclay thinks Armour was making "a dig" at his old adversary, Walter Hagen, who had won the British Open four times but never the Canadian.

As part of the tournament's centennial celebration, the RCGA commissioned Toronto writer Ian Cranbrook to write an introduction to the Open's commemorative coffee-table book, *The Open Golf Championship of Canada* (224 pages, Key Porter Books, \$95). After poring through the RCGA's archives, library microfiche and club histories, Cranbrook has his own "fifth major" theory: "I think the players thought of it as one of the top tournaments because it was a national Open, and they didn't have to sail across the sea to play it. They just had to drive across the border. It attracted the attention of the Hagens and the Hagens and the Stens, and it wasn't for the money, because the top players could get money for playing as a job in those days. Being the Canadian Open champion was a big deal."

Recent champions agree. "The always thought of it as a little bit bigger tournament than just our national stage because it is a national Open," Terry said last year.



By way: Jack Nicklaus (left) played the Open 10 times and won it five times.

Billy Andrade, who was at Glen Abbey in 1988, concurs. "I didn't realize the magnitude of this tournament until I won it, so far as how prestigious it is so was this event. It is the nation's Open champion of Canada."

Of course, those endorsements must be mitigated by the fact that they are uttered by golf pros who have won here. The usual depth of thought on the PGA Tour might be less, especially by someone like 1985 PGA Championship winner Jeff Sluman, who, when asked

whether there might be a "fifth major," responded, "When you go to Disney's and order the Grand Slam breakfast, they don't give you five things, do they? They give you four."

Nevertheless, at 100, the Canadian Open appears as healthy as the ever old Bell Canada remains a solid life sponsor, but years' success substantiated the plan to move the event around the country and this year's field will be bolstered by top players seeking competition before the Ryder Cup outside Detroit the following week.

One early hope is that Bannan doesn't win at Glen Abbey in September. **B**

## Be a Canadian Open expert

**Who won the last ladies' event in Canada to win the Open?**

Karl Rafter of Toronto, Ont., in 1909 and 1914. Pat Rafter, an Algonquin, winner in 1954, moved to Canada from England as an infant.

**Who has won the most Canadian Opens?**

John Dwyer of Detroit (1924, '26, '28, '29).

**Who recorded the best finish by a Canadian at Glen Abbey?**

Dave Barr of Niagara (P.C. finished tied for fourth in 1968).

**Where did Arnold Palmer win his first PGA Tour event?**

The 1955 Canadian Open at Weston Golf Club in Toronto.

**The Open has been played only once in Atlantic Canada. Where and when?**

At Roundabout Country Club in New Brunswick, Harold Galt McSpadden won the 1939 Open.

**Who were the three major sponsors of the Canadian Open?**

Scotiabank (1986-1995), Tiger Woods (1996-1999) and

outMaster (1993, 1995) and Bell Canada (1994-present).

**In the 1957 Open at Westmount in Quebec, Ont., a Canadian became the youngest player to make the cut in a PGA Tour event, a record that still stands. Who is he?**

Don Foreman, at the age of 23 years, eight months and 20 days.

**Who are the only two men to win the Canadian, U.S. and British Opens in the same year?**

Lee Trevino (1971) and Tiger Woods (2000).

Photo: Bob D'Amico

Watch Across the Provinces, with John Gordon and Bruce Frier, every Monday on Sportsnet, 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

# Dawn of the dead

Can a new owner bring a CFL franchise back to life? Football fans will find out this year as the Toronto Argonauts and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats both return from financial limbo to live another season.

By Bruce McDougall

**B**ob Young flew to Ontario last November to buy the Hamilton Tiger-Cats after they finished the 2003 season as reeferheads owing more than \$2.5 million to creditors. That same month, David Cymaron and Howard Sokolowski bought the Toronto Argonauts out of receivership after the Rostrum had lost a reported \$17 million and owed the CFL more than \$2.5 million for running the club in 2003.

Are these guys mad? Not according to them.

The new owners all think there's value in what it takes to make their team a winner. It just so happens that's not on the balance sheet. "My challenge is how to monetize the fan base," says Young, who made a fortune in the 1990s as co-founder of a U.S. software

company called Red Hat. "To become Defiance again. Our product is football. Our business is sports-marketing."

Sokolowski and Cymaron see Toronto as the center of the universe. In a city of three million people, they say the Argos need to attract only 25,000 fans per game to make money. Account-

ing for one-third of the league's receipts, the Toronto market drives the CFL's television revenues. Besides, a 136-year-old football team simply cannot fail, says Sokolowski, founder of a local homebuilding company. "There's too much tradition."

That tradition almost ended under the team's previous owners. In Hamilton, George Goss and David Macdonald earned the admiration of local fans but didn't have the deep pockets to keep the team afloat. Even a Grey Cup four years later didn't save the club's finances enough. By the time the 2003 season started, the Tiger-Cats celebrated their 134th season with a

deficit of more than \$5 million.

In Toronto, Sharnwood Schwartz racked up even bigger debts as Argos fans settled around in the city's cavernous SkyDome-like jumping beams. In a moment Schwartz handed the franchise back to the CFL, as the 2003 season began, leaving the league to keep the team from soaring into the great end zone in the sky.

Not surprisingly, Sokolowski and Cymaron didn't have to wait in line to buy the Argos. Nor did Bob Young have to wait in line to buy the Argos. Nor did

## THE BIG STRUGGLE

When Argos GM Howard Sokolowski looked beyond the team's financial struggles during the 2003 season, there were more already struggling to live another day.

and shoulder pads and a few dozen footballs from the CFL's official receiver. In fact, for a league franchise priced at what included a CFL franchise fee of about \$350,000, the owners of both teams have bought themselves a potential gold mine. Now all they have to do is market it.

Bob Sokolowski, who attended Argos games with his father, and Young, whose grandfather Bill played for a Grey Cup-winning Ticat team in 1912, think their hometown roots will give them an advantage. "We know a lot of people in the community," says Sokolowski. "This makes a huge difference."

Young says he understands what it takes to get fans back to live Wayne Stadium. "I sat in the bleachers to watch the Ticats play, I.C. in 2000," says Young, who lives with his wife and three children in North Carolina. "I

asked the fans what they liked and disliked, and they had some strong opinions."

Among other things, he says Hamilton fans don't like to sit in



Young (left), Argos GM Howard Sokolowski (2nd L), Cymaron, Sokolowski & CIL, commissioner Tom Weir

bleachers rather than Technosax old men in trench coats. True to his technological background, Young will also turn Hamilton stadiums into a wireless Internet hotspot.



a stadium appropriated by supporters in their own library on the 59th. Nor do they like to watch 250-pound Ticat chug seventeen beers and then try to perform a hip dance on the team mascot. They want a scoreboard where they can see replays of the action on the field and they want cheerleaders whose routines are designed to maximize

"So you can take pictures of the game from the stands and e-mail them to your buddies in California. All this," he says. "Makes a CFL game more fun. After all, it's not just about the football game."

In Toronto, the first priority of Sokolowski and Cymaron is to extract the Argos from SkyDome and put them in a stadium that's smaller than the Grand Canyon.

Negotiating since last year with everybody who might share a stadium with them, they say they'll do it by 2006.

Having said all this, do these guys have a chance of succeeding? We're prepared to spend the time and the money to make the franchise a major league success," says Sokolowski.

In Hamilton, Young says, "This thing will make money. Success is not an option. It may take longer than we expect. But we will not fail."

Did you really expect them to say anything else?

Bruce McDougall is a managing editor of Sportsnet Magazine.

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Same Over  
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## An ice field of dreams: Burns Stadium, home of the Triple A Calgary Cannons, was also one cold place.

**H**as there ever been a baseball park with a more misleading name than Calgary's Burns Stadium? The only thing that burned wore your frostbitten toes. My dad took me there for the first time in 1977. Nestled in the foothills, the view of the snow-capped Rocky Mountains was spectacular, but by the sixth inning old pop and I felt like a pair of popsicles.



The Triple A Cannons played their final season at the stadium two summers ago, before moving to Albuquerque, N.M. Day with work and wedding plans, I finally managed to find a date in May to make one final pilgrimage to the park. I flew in from Toronto and hustled across town just in time for the first pitch.

There was just one problem: My field of dreams was in the process of becoming a blanket of snow and the game—and my last farewell, never took place. Snowed out in May?

Big deal. John Traub can easily top that: Traub spent five years as the general manager of the Cannons and now holds the same position with the Albuquerque Isotopes. ("Yes, the name originates from an episode of *The Simpsons*," and, yes, it is a license to print money. Last year, the Isotopes netted 191st in major-league baseball merchandise sales.)

"A few years ago in Calgary, one of our games got snowed out in August," remembers Traub.

"Keep in mind, I'm from Colorado and I thought, 'Oh my goodness! What have I got myself into?'"

There there was the time a blizzard rained into town on the first of July. The Cannons always drew some of their biggest crowds on Canada Day and nothing was going to stop them from getting the game on.

"We finally called it in the sixth inning," laughs Traub. "But it was an official game and, afterwards, we discovered the weather was so bad that the police had to close down the TransCanada Highway between Calgary and Banff."

I'm proud to say that did and I never over left a game at Burns before it was over. One night we cheered through a 15 inning marathon, and, when the game miraculously ended, there were only two people left in the stands.

I've never felt closer to my dad than that night.

Traub also has special memories of blizzards and baseball, including the opportunity to get to know a legend in the making

In 1994, Alford was still known as Alex Rodriguez, an 18-year-old phenom who played 35 games with the Cannons.

"Given back then, there was a lot of hype around Alex," says Traub. "But he was such a good kid and you could tell he was something special. He's got a lot more cash in his pocket now, but he's still the same guy he always was."

Unlike Alford, the legend still stays the same. There's no professional baseball in Calgary anymore.

The hard climate and falling attendance finally drove the Cannons out of town, and Traub went with them. Last year, the Albuquerque Isotopes averaged over 8,000 fans per game. During the dying club's final days in Calgary, it took lucky if a thousand fans showed up.

"I lost a lot of fans, literally, over the cold temperatures in Calgary," says Traub. "We're not doing anything different to draw fans in Albuquerque. It's just that the weather is so much more dependable."

My dad and I?

We do try to ball games together anymore. He spends most of his time on the golf course, and I live across the country in Toronto, which means I now cheer for the Blue Jays. But as I sit indoors at climate-controlled SkyDome, I can't help but think of another ball park.

Burns Stadium might have been the coldest place on earth.

But the memories? They'll always be warm.

Mike Toth is a co-author on Sports Illustrated's final days in Calgary. It was lucky if a thousand fans showed up.

WORTH THE TIME INVESTED

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# DID SOMEONE SAY BUBBLE?

Canada's rocketing real estate market is defying pessimists—hect's defying realists.

KATHERINE MACKLEM explains why, thanks to a solid economy and nesting boomers, it's here to stay.

**IN 2001**, Lindsey and Chris Sakarmyk bought a 130-year-old house in Toronto's chic Yorkville area. The property had been well cared for, but it hadn't been updated since the 1940s. Prosecuting an heritage facade, they demolished it from the inside out. They stripped walls right down to the frame, tore out old wiring and plumbing, dug out the basement, reinforced the foundation and ripped off the house's back end to extend it and accommodate a third storey.

The couple, professionals who now are both 27 years old, had custom-made kitchen cabinets installed and bought top-of-the-line appliances. Bedrooms were equipped with designer-name beds, heated floors and exquisite tiles. They painted the walls Zen tones and chose the urban chic furniture. They placed parental in the backyard and laid a gravel path to the two-car parking spot. Then, after spending a couple of hundred thousand dollars and months living on the third floor with a hot plate and a four-ridge in lieu of a kitchen, they sold it.

The Sakarmyks are a bit shy about explicitly spelling out how much they made, but suffice it to say they sold it for well into the seven figures, double what they'd paid for it. "It's insane," Lindsey says.

Sean Weisenberg encountered insanity of a different sort. Last February, he camped out overnight in a lineup snaking down



## SURREAL ESTATE

SALES FROM INSIDE CANADA'S HOTTEST NEIGHBOURHOODS

### A FLIP BRINGS A JACKPOT

1844 Kings Ave. 2002: \$405,000 2004: \$744,000

This 2,600-sq-ft. bungalow with four bedrooms (two in the basement) and two bathrooms is a what, according to recent data, is Canada's fastest-appreciating neighbourhood. It's close to downtown, the beach and tony parts of West Vancouver. It has in the area are up 18 per cent in the past six months alone.

**1990 on:** Current owner Chris Tutton believes the home has had only two previous sets of residents: the original buyers, who then sold it to a single mother in the late 1980s.

**Spring 2002:** As Vancouver's real estate process sizzles, Tutton's sales executive, gamblers that Ambleside will heat up. "It was the cheapest house I could afford in the area," he recalls, because "you don't get much in Vancouver for half a million." Though the house is in good shape, he spritzed the next two years mowing out his line of credit on renovations, opening up the living spaces and installing a gourmet kitchen and luxurious bathrooms.

**February 2004:** Tutton lists the house on the market for \$489,000. In two days, 128 people drive through, and it sells within a week for \$485,000 over asking. Listing agent Mark Macmahon says \$744,000 is a fair price since "the land value alone is \$500,000. If it was on a quarter street it would be easily \$1,000,000 more." As for Tutton, he has long wanted a great view and has bought a home overlooking the harbour and a backyard pool for \$395,000 (\$15,000 above the asking price). PATRICIA TREBLE

### ARMCHAIR, DREAMING: West Vancouver



This place would go with a two-year-old value above \$1,000,000.



but still, he says of his losses, "it's like, my God!" His interest in the real estate market was piqued when bonds recently started offering no-down-payment mortgages, and he's found one bank that gives a 30-year, 6% first-rate mortgage on a purchase price back to the mortgage dealer (the interest rate, much, is slightly higher than market). Thinking both about lifestyle and risk aversion, Simpson, a 38-year-old who works in advertising, is now searching for the perfect left-style condo in Toronto for up to \$350,000. He believes some will stay trendy. In no longer makes sense to fork over \$1,200 a month to a landlord. "I'm sick of not paying myself," he says. Even though a mortgage will jack up Simpson's monthly housing cost by at least \$1,000, it will be worth it, he says. "Basically, it's forced savings for me. I don't want to test any more."

#### FACTOR #2: HOMES ARE CHEAP (RELATIVELY SPEAKING)

Many buyers are like Simpson, eager to get in before property values reach the stratosphere. Those who a couple of years ago decided to wait for the market to cool are now looking at themselves. That's not the case for the run-up in all real estate prices. What's unusual this time around is that the main reason for many purchases is not a property's sticker price. Rather, it's how much house they can afford to carry through their mortgage payments.

Every three months, economist Carl Green publishes a revealing report on what's called the Housing Affordability Index. If there is one statistic that explains today's real estate market, condense it into: Green's, of Royal Bank of Canada, combines various sets of data to arrive at the percentage of

household income that goes toward paying for the home. In Toronto, at the height of the 1990 bubble, when mortgage rates were averaging 13.25 per cent, the cost of carrying a house was an unaffordable 71 per cent of pre-tax household income. (Given that mortgage cost up another 30 per cent, what did those people eat?) It's Vancouver, though, which was the harbinger of doom for consumers having the least left over after paying their monthly housing bills (including utilities, taxes, etc.), a ratio that's today at roughly 46 per cent. While it's the highest in the country, houses in Vancouver are actually 15 per cent more affordable than they were in 1997, Green says. Except for a tiny moment in '86, Vancouver's affordability index has always been above 40 per cent, peaking in '94 at 64 per cent. Just about everywhere else in Canada,

the affordability rate today hovers around the very healthy level of 30 per cent.

On a market-wide basis, bankers begin to worry only when the ratio passes 50 per cent. "What's surprising is that real estate markets pan almost everywhere in Canada have

**THEY started to recognize the competing bidders. One house, listed at \$669,000, sold for \$900,000. 'That was stretching reality.'**

a way to go before they peak. Green says that's the worst boom, because it suggests a subsequent bust. "I'd say this is a robust, strong housing market with some modest concerns," he says. "But it won't collapse." Does that mean it's a good time to sell and wait a good time to buy? "It's definitely a

seller's market, but given the affordability, it's still a good time to buy," he says.

Rubin agrees it will be a while before this market goes sour. "It'll continue as long as interest rates continue to be low," he says. Green says popular wisdom—and the bond

market—which expects interest rates to creep up in the near future, Rubin goes so far as to suggest there won't be a rate increase

in the U.S.—(which can trigger a capital jump in Canada) all this year. "Never in the history of the Federal Reserve Board has it raised rates during an election year," Rubin says. In Canada, not only are interest rates not going up, they may come down further, he predicts. "As long as interest

rates stay at these levels, the housing market will continue to defy what normally are fundamental constraints."

#### FACTOR #3: BOOMERS WANT TO RETIRE IN STYLE

And then there are the boomers, that generation which, just by their numbers, is re-writing the real estate rulebook and, approaching 60 years of age, are downsizing, in 60-year-old terms to do. But instead of moving into more modest homes, they will want "all the bells and whistles," says Phil Sager, president and CEO of Royal LePage. Meanwhile, the back end of the boomer generation, the 40-somethings, are in upgrade mode; if they aren't already living in the house of their dreams, they figure now is the time to go out and find it. In real estate lingo, they're the move-up crowd, and they are putting a lot

## YOU SPENT HOW MUCH?!

A cross-country checkup on the price of home ownership

**THE AVERAGE 2-STORY HOUSE** in Canada is now worth \$384,441, up 4.8 per cent from last year, and 37 per cent above 1990. So what does \$384,441 buy you these days? Here are examples from 13 cities, along with well-stated stats on the local markets. But to really put the numbers in perspective,

consider the **affordability** rating, which shows how much of a household's income goes toward housing costs (living in the 1990 bubble). The higher the percentage, the more valuable you are to a residential developer. The average for Canada is 32 per cent; in 2008 it was 51 per cent.











#### DEFINITIONS

**1-story house:** Single-level, 1,000 sq. ft., detached or semi on a city lot, with three bedrooms, a full basement and a detached garage

**1-year % change in price of a standard two-story house:** the past 12 months

**3-year % change since 1990:**

**Affordability:** % of pre-tax household income taken up by home ownership costs for the last quarter of 2008 (vs. the second quarter of 1990, the last bubble's peak). When data for this city is not available, provincial or regional statistics are used.

Victoria	Vancouver	Calgary	Edmonton	Winnipeg	Toronto	Ottawa	Montreal	Halifax	St. John's
									
\$380,890, 40-year-old, 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath side-split with 1,600 sq. ft., just west of U.Vic.	\$380,000, 2,670-sq.-ft., 3-story with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, in East Vancouver	\$181,800, 4-bedroom, 2-bath, 1,600-sq.-ft., 30-year-old bungalow in Lake Bonaville (South end)	\$268,000, 2,400-sq.-ft. with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 fireplaces, main-floor family room and den, in Madgebrook Heights	\$290,000, 2-year-old, 2,400-sq.-ft. house with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, den and great room on a 60-ft. lot in Southdale	\$305,000, 14-ft.-wide, row house with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths in trendy part of downtown	\$382,500, 4-year-old, 1,200-sq.-ft. house with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths on corner lot in Carleton Place (northwest suburb)	\$308,000, 40-year-old, 1,200-sq.-ft. downtown condo with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths	\$300,000, 3-bedroom, 2.5 baths, 1,600-sq.-ft., large fenced lakefront lot in Northwinds Plaza	\$257,000, 5-bedroom, 3 baths, 2,400-sq.-ft., open concept gourmet kitchen, in Woodlands
<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$315,000</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$517,380</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$231,300</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$188,571</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$154,500</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$458,444</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$250,286</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$289,273</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$208,375</b>	<b>Average 2-story:</b> <b>\$182,667</b>
<b>1 year:</b> +13.5% <b>3 year:</b> +27%	<b>1 year:</b> +12.1% <b>3 year:</b> +66.5%	<b>1 year:</b> +1.8% <b>3 year:</b> +7%	<b>1 year:</b> +1.4% <b>3 year:</b> +37.4%	<b>1 year:</b> +19.7% <b>3 year:</b> +2%	<b>1 year:</b> +7% <b>3 year:</b> +53.5%	<b>1 year:</b> +5.2% <b>3 year:</b> +25.2%	<b>1 year:</b> +4.1% <b>3 year:</b> +21.1%	<b>1 year:</b> +1.5% <b>3 year:</b> +23.5%	<b>1 year:</b> +12.3% <b>3 year:</b> +24.5%
<b>Hot area:</b> North Saanich (suburb)	<b>Hot area:</b> Burnside/Burnside (West Vancouver)	<b>Hot area:</b> Mount Royal (South-central)	<b>Hot area:</b> West end	<b>Hot area:</b> South Winnipeg	<b>Hot area:</b> Riverdale (East central)	<b>Hot area:</b> Rockhill (Southwest suburb)	<b>Hot area:</b> Kirkland/Pierrefonds (West Island)	<b>Hot area:</b> Seaside (Suburb)	<b>Hot area:</b> Cloville (Suburb)
<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (W.C.) <b>42.9%</b> (50.2% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Vancouver area) <b>46.2%</b> (46.7% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Calgary area) <b>29.3%</b> (47.2% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Edmonton) <b>27.3%</b> (41.2% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Winnipeg) <b>30.9%</b> (42% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Toronto area) <b>38.4%</b> (21.1% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Ottawa) <b>31.7%</b> (33.4% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Montreal area) <b>30.1%</b> (20.8% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Atlantic) <b>26.8%</b> (42.4% in 1990)	<b>AFFORDABILITY</b> (Atlantic) <b>26.8%</b> (42.4% in 1990)

## A \$1.2-MILLION TEAR-DOWN

3033 Lakeshore Rd. May 2003: \$991,000, April 2006: \$1,185,000

This three-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom house, built in 1964, has 3,700 sq. feet of space, but it's the nearly 19 feet of sandy lakeshore that matters. Houses across the street, without water access, fetch a fraction of the price.

"The waterfront among realtors is that it's a tear down," says Kelvina agent Shanon Black. The vendors, who owned the house only 11 months, have turned a 30-pc-ent profit. They aren't alone; house prices in this city of 100,000 have as much as doubled in the past year, and continue to surge. The mild Okanagan valley climate and relaxed way of life are drawing people—read business relocating for retirement—from all over the world.

"Even mobile homes are increasing in value," says Black, and she's not joking. There are actually no homes for sale under \$100,000 and Wade Webb, another agent, counts 57 homes listed for \$1 million or more. Black driven by the home daily and says there is nothing special about it. "It's a wonderful house on a long and narrow lot," but she believes the property itself is worth \$1 million. PE

**Victoria, British Columbia**



## A KEEPER, EVEN FROM HONG KONG

4 Centralized Cms.

2004: \$185,000.

2004: \$275,000+ (incl.)

This 45-year-old, 1,500-sq.-ft. bungalow with four bedrooms and two bathrooms is a typical home for Kowloon, a local island, largely anaphora area on West Island with excellent schools and next door to an executive enclave. June 2007: The Montreal market is very slow when a couple buys this bungalow with newish furniture, windows and bath-tubs. They pay \$180,000 over asking price. Over the years, they do only minor touch-ups.

April 2007: Having a job transfer, the couple puts the house on the market at \$254,500, a price reflecting the neighborhood's popularity as a generally hot market. Local realtor (Ch. Vancouver), who has handled this home several times, says that while a few years back "there were 20 houses for every purchaser" here, now he has most evenings left over no properties to show. Adeline (Sommers) and her husband Nick Somers don't hesitate, offering more than \$250,000 over asking the day the listing appears. For then the house is sold. A large yard and close to downtown hotel service.

Early 2008: Somers and Somers move to Hong Kong, but, seeing the surging prices in the area, decide to hold on to the house and rent it out.

Spring 2008: Vancouver estimates the home is now worth \$270,000, and climbing. PE

**Kirkland/Parksville, Montreal**



of pressure on the middle of the market.

It's pressure. Class Garfield and her husband knew well. The two thingyconcealing professionals began their search for a house in September 2002. They thought they'd spend a few days in the spring familiar with the central Toronto market, where they went off to live, and then be in a position to buy a house the following spring. Their initial target price was \$639,000. "Wrong," and wrong. They visited more than 150 houses, even coming to recognize the faces of competing bidders. The friends were on Garfield (her real name) became pregnant. Houses were rejected for not having parking, for being too dark or needing too much work. Still, they placed offers on 10 different properties. In two cases, they were explicitly told the vendors would not accept their price. Each time, their bid was trumped. One house, listed at \$669,900, sold for \$669,900. "That was wrenching really," she says.

Garfield's baby was born. He's now a happy, giggly 2-year-old boy. "It's a long running joke among our family and friends. Everyone said that was looking at ready living in their house," she says. "There was no point when we were so frustrated. We just wanted to buy a goddamn house." They kept looking, and a couple of weeks ago made yet another offer, this time on a well-maintained, three-story Edwardian whose list price had just been lowered to \$885,000. They offered precisely that, on condition the property pass an inspection, which would happen two days later. The vendor accepted. The Garfields site possession in June. "In this market, you have to also what will happen with this price," Garfield says. "But they probably could have got more money."

Around the general optimism, there is one pocket of the real estate market causing some concern. That's condos in Toronto, which RBC's Gomez says are showing bubble-like signs. Real estate prices, particularly among the new strata or on-site developments, have begun to drop while new building contracts to go up. The fear is that a glut of these condos will trigger a price collapse in the sector. In Vancouver, Gomez says, the story is exactly different. Land is at such a premium buyers will continue to snap-up condos as fast as they become available—even if that means spending the night on the sidewalk. M

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## A PLACE IN THE HEART

We learned about the lost Estonia. But what to do once it's found?

I AM 10 YEARS OLD, emerging with a group of boys through the woods on a bear's drive north of Montreal. The land is owned by the city's Estonian community—it's where I will spend the summer of my first year in a place I will forever identify as my spiritual home. Deer first dance around my head. Ferns swirl against my feet. The light filtering through the trees seems green, almost blue.

I have a rifle on my shoulder.  
We're being taught to shoot, in this place where children laugh and parents remember. They tell us stories about their lost country. They say that marksmanship builds character,

teaches you how to focus. But we know there's more. Sometimes, we will fire the homeland from Moscow's churches.

Four decades later, this past weekend we reached a place or two in Estonia and seven other former Communist bloc nations took their place in the European Union, along with Malta and Greek Cyprus. It's still a little hard to believe, even the fact that almost 13 years have passed since the explosion of the End Empire (now we loved Dan Riedel Rasmussen). Entering the EU didn't happen as universal acclaim in Estonia, some cities predict trouble for a small country of 1.4 million people in a behemoth of 450 million. Fully a third of those who took part in last fall's referendum voted against joining. But I can only connect with the EU's mission in after the vote: membership in the union "marks Estonia's return to its rightful place in Europe, and sets the seal on a process of change that has been both difficult and hard won."

Well, excuse me for going a little blue, but I feel ecstatic here, blissed out about it all. Because even in Estonia's borders, our Estonian Canadian community here in Canada, of which I have been an active member all my life, diminishes.

Don't get me wrong—it's not on death doors. And in part it's a natural evolution for all ethnic groups in this country: as native generations of hyperactive Canadians fold over and fewer people who try to keep their heritage alive. But the numbers are telling. The first worldwide Estonian festival, organized in Toronto in 1973, attracted 20,000 people. The last one held in this city, in 2000, drew about 4,000. Sam-

ueli Kõrre, who once hosted inter-dance in the thousands are now lucky to get 500. In 1973, 80 kids finished the Toronto Estonian supplementary school. This year, there will be just nine graduates. And soon, there will be just six students.

It's more than statistics. Those who established the institutions I've known most of my life—community centres, churches, clubs, a thriving credit union, newspapers and more—could have some five decades ago witnessed by an burning desire to independence for Estonia. Now that it's been achieved, we've lost a large part of our nation's life. There are those in the former East Bloc who regret the passing of Communism. "Life was better then," they

**HOW**  
do you persuade  
lapsed ethnics that their  
heritage makes them not  
only better Canadians but  
also better world citizens?

remember. But what if I think the same thing, albeit for different reasons?

With the acceleration of events in Europe, much of our attention is now focused on the old (new) country. Many of us have personal connections there. Visas in the summer are a matter of course. A number of Estonian Canadians, both old and young, have moved there. 10th Estonia member of the EU, that trend may accelerate.

There's been a corresponding movement in this direction. The teaching staff at our Toronto school now includes younger native-born Estonians. More and more performers

at our functions, or speakers at our conferences are flown in from Estonia. That's recent, a certain revitalization. But there are all things that we used to do, and do well, as members of a free-standing minority and community that has been small but vibrant part of the Canadian mosaic. Are we now becoming, in essence, nothing more than a provincial adjunct of a tiny country 10,000 km away?

Those who are active in our remaining organizations are wrestling with such questions as they try to juggle priorities and change the way things have been done for decades (the only truly negative Estonian European commitment are generally conservative). But let's not encourage things according to the 1971 census, 18,419 people in Canada identified themselves as being of Estonian background. In the 2001 census, that number was up to 22,099.

They're out there, so how do you connect new arrivals from Estonia that what was established here, by displaced persons who constructed dams, raised copper, or tended university in spite of language barriers, built lives, a worth preserving and reinvigorating? And how do you persuade lapsed ethnics (what do you call them?) that they can be not only better Canadians but also better world citizens thanks to their heritage, knowledge of another language, and an intimate understanding of justice? Because that potential has an effect. "Standing up for Estonians depends not on right or wrong of my background, but because as a Canadian I felt outrage that Estonians did not have rights that were second nature to me," says Pinar Bektas, 38, born and raised in Toronto and now vice-chairman of the Estonian (Erikois) Credit Union. "I felt the same outrage with respect to apartheid in South Africa and racial intolerance in the United States. Being Estonian helped me transcend and find the sense of wrong."

I saw get a sense that, in our rush to embrace the new and focus on what's happening overseas, we're in the process of

forgetting much of what we accomplished in Canada. There seems to be a form of forgetting going on in Estonia as well. Talk to some people there, and it's as if the bad old days never were. To some degree that's understandable, says Heide Ahonen, a former dentist and now chairman and managing director of Estonia's Museum of Occupations and the Fight for Freedom, which opened on July 1, 2003. It's dedicated to chronicling what Estonia endured during the war and the half century that followed. "Memories are selective," Ahonen says. "Too many people still displayed a picture of the old Communist regime, and so, to not, 'for getting it a way of preserving our sanity. Some cannot allow the past to be forgotten.' A museum, in this case dedicated to pre-

serving the good, might not be a bad idea for us as well—before we face the danger of our whole heritage being reduced to a half-remembered Easter egg design or a few heritage items of a folk dance. That goes for all Canadians whose ancestries among the new European Union members from the former Communist bloc. According to the last census, we number nearly 1.4 million (add those whose are now homebound are evolving more slowly, such as Ukrainian Canadians, and the number balloons to more than three million). Perhaps one overall museum here, to commemorate the Canadian experience, and individual ones overseas, to keep alive what a branch of the tribe lived through. Because things are already being lost. The spot where I spent my summers is mostly

empty now, except for the people who still have cottages there. Twelve years ago, some friends who I grew up with and still live in Montreal tried to breathe new life into the place by establishing a family camp for those who have a connection there. And so, over the August long weekend, there are again kids who laugh and parents who remember. But for the rest of the time? As one elderly cottager wistfully told me, "It's as if the birds don't even sing."

I raised a glass to Estonia and my friends and relatives there over this past EU weekend. Good on you, I said. But the toast was also to a small community in Canada that has managed to dig out things. And so a child with a small rifle, walking along a forest path that's long since overgrown.



# HAPPINESS IS A WARM GUN

Nothing like an NRA convention to rally the Republican vote, writes JONATHAN GATEHOUSE

THEY'RE SWARMING like bees to honey. Where, middle-aged men of ample girth in golf shirts and relaxed-fit jeans, smiling for pictures in the crowded aisle to the convention room floor. Smiling to hear the pitch, they edge forward. "Say I put you on a pedestal," the salesman suggests to kneeling men from the assembled ocean of bald caps. "I'm wedged in. I'm going to die. My car is going to Mexico. 'What do I do?'" He dips a hand into his front pants pocket and flicks his wrist. The heart of a pistol pops up from his waistband. In one swift movement, the gun is drawn and pointed directly at the head of the anxious prospect. "Steady is good," the salesman proclaims. "Just those results of a second and it's 'Give me your wallet, give me your watch.'" The crowd surrenders to appetitive drizzle.

Fans of Freud, or even more, might shy away from the idea of packing a loaded handgun in such close proximity to a vital organ, but neither group appears well-represented at the National Rifle Association's 132nd annual meeting in Pittsburgh. Instead, the Hunt, Inc., company that makes the "Puger Pul" (the clip that attaches the holster to your belt is disguised as a beeper) is doing hot-olive business, as customers clamor for a better way to hide their unsightly gun bulges. (Pennsylvania is among the 18 U.S. states that now have laws permitting residents to carry concealed weapons.) Even the own forthright gardeners—dark trousers, suspenders, retro beards and home workouts—lugging out on the fringes of the crowd, dutifully step forward and fork over US\$75 each for their holsters. They refuse a request for an interview, so their maneuvers—let alone how they plan to use the device to their belated peace—remain a mystery. Per-

haps they're still spooked by that Hartman Ford movie.

Henry Noel, a tall man with a wiry, crinkling bangkok, is purchasing his far-fetched pistols. "It's something that will work very well in the summer, when you're not wearing a suit jacket," says the manager of a Pittsburgh news cemetery and funeral home. Noel has been carrying a gun for almost 30 years. He's never been the victim of a crime, but he's determined not to become one. "I'm terrified, I'm just prepared. The police can't be everywhere," he says. The mission of Canada provides a lengthy digression about the danger of gun control. If the criminals had to be afraid of the citizens, instead of the other way around, we would all be better off, he hypothesizes. "If all human people carried firearms, it would be a much safer world."

It's tempting to equate with the cold, hard statistics. In 2002, there were 149 gun homicides in Canada, south of the border, there were 11,946. Even factoring in the population difference, that's about eight times higher. (But the bulk of members of the NRA and their supporters are not Canadian.) The four million Americans who belong to the pro-gun lobby group are estimated that even the most basic restrictions on weapons ownership infringe on their constitutional right to be well-armed. They will swear up and down that violent crime is rising, despite a decade-long downward trend. And they tend to think that George W. Bush is suspiciously liberal because he has pledged not to use his veto if Congress re-



truly admitted as revealed in the most powerful lobby in Washington, the NRA claims its members threaten lay states as West Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas. In Bush's favor during the closely fought 2000 election. And it's making noise about again motivating its troops this fall. But membership has shrunk in recent years, while the NRA's debt has climbed to US\$70 million. And despite having one of the most gun-friendly administrations in decades, controlling the laws of power, the organization has notably failed to defeat tougher noncampaign finance laws, and extend legal protection for gun manufacturers against liability lawsuits.

But at the annual convention in Pittsburgh, coincidentally held on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Columbine, Colo., school massacre, the mood is now triumphed over defiance. "For 25 years they've tried every trick to take your guns. But you did not budge," Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's executive vice-president, addresses in air and ice, tells a ballroom packed with people in

ers. "If they had a Second Amendment here then a year later Saddam never would have taken power," he says. It's a completely empty weekend. At least for the participants.

No one even grumbles or looks astounded when the keynote address by Vice President Dick Cheney is moved to a nondescript hotel. For one night only, more than 4,000 NRA members happily obey instructions to leave their handguns at home, show up three hours early, and endure an extra-intrusive background check. Standings of a massive backdrop proclaiming "The Second Amendment—America's First Freedom." Cheney, as well-known, cracks on the warmblood between Republicans and the NRA. Unlike the Prime Minister of Canada, both LaPierre and Chris Cox, the group's chief lobbyist, have been to Bush's Crawford, Tex., ranch. The rest of the 16-minute speech is remarkable only for how much time Cheney spends smiling John Kerry in a room where the only people likely to vote Democratic are the gun wanting to clear the chain away.

All through the weekend, the assembled members, who are engaging everything from hunting trips to laser light rights and anti-terrorism salt pills, protest. In the NRA's own view, staff can barely keep the tables braced with men,

## THE MENTION of Canada sets the owner of a cemetery off on a digression about the dangers of gun control

and women—overworld foreigners carrying on American soil," with for its chance to undo the Second Amendment, he warns "We'll see every state gun U.S. senator hear this word never go to bed afraid of what this body can do to your career."

At the end of the speech, the crowd, led by LaPierre, chants the battle cry of former NRA president Charlton Heston: "There's only one God here!"

From the opening ceremonies to the final word, the power of the gun, and the supremacy of the American way of life, are celebrated in speech, song and shopping. The Oak Ridge Boys, who enter wearing their NRA membership cards high in the air, sing the national anthem and a medley of their hits (a video later conservative celebration). During a glass celebration of the brave men and women in uniform, a satellite phone call from NRA board member Oliver North, who is hanging out with Marines in Afghanistan, is patched over the loudspeaker.

flap, coarsen, rope books for wild game, and manufacture slaps of salt and pepper shakers. You can admire, and order, every type of gun from featherweight pen shot to pistols to four-foot-long .50-cal. sniper rifles good for 2,000 yards.

Maureen Fletcher, a tiny woman with brown hair, is in the market for a new gun. The handsome folk from Eric Hollerstein, Pa., says she's had a bad experience and already packs a .38 and a .45. She's looking at more powerful weapons. "I want a bullet that's big enough to give me some fear in case I'm nervous," she says. "If I have to use it, somebody's going down, and it's not me."

Everything that's left. It didn't change anything in the U.S. For many Americans, their greatest fears aren't hiding in a cave in Afghanistan. They're still lurking down city alleys, right around the corner from home.

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The American way of life is based on the strength, song—and also in sleeping



## DOCS WITHOUT BORDERS

A new breed of filmmakers launches a revolution in reportage

**LAST YEAR**, the day the U.S. military began to bomb Baghdad, Ava Lewis and Naomi Klein were on the roof of an occupied factory in Buenos Aires, filming workers engaged in target practice with homemade slingshots. The workers had already wielded these primitive weapons to repel attacks by police, and had scavenged their ammunition from the factory floor—entirely built to grind clay in the production of tiles. Standing on that rooftop, “I had two overwhelming emotions,” recalls Klein, looking Iraq and Argentina to a globalized matrix of injustice. “One was a feeling of total intolerance—

we’re throwing slingshots and America is dropping cluster bombs. But part of me felt there was nowhere else to be.”

As it turned out, Klein and Lewis were in the right place at the right time. They’d glimpsed themselves in Argentina’s capital as the country was being rocked by a popular groundswell of some 200 factory occupations. And they had their cameras rolling as a group of laid-off employees took over a abandoned auto parts plant in the hope of

reorganizing production under worker control. The filmmakers’ sympathies were clear; they were meeting for the workers. But as they fell in love the story, they had no idea where it was going, or how it would end. This result is a scintillating documentary called *The Take*, which plays like a one-lapse portrait of history in the making. One of 166 films at Toronto’s 10th annual Hot Docs festival (April 23-May 2), it’s just

one example of a new breed of non-fiction film that’s reorienting the art of point-of-view journalism.

In the exporatorious mood, sound films are thinking, news is developing into info tourism, television is re-engineering “reality” as a Darwinian talent show, and investigative reporting is being phased out as anxiety and too expensive. But in integral generation of documentary filmmakers is taking up the slack and finding an audience. Not since the advent of the “New Journalism” in the 1960s has there been such a revolution in reportage. Michael Moore led the charge with a volley of guerrilla documentaries—*Raging Bull*, *The Big One* and *Deadly for Columbia*—filming stories that in up the box office as they split

**IN WHAT** *revels* of  
the *Take* *explores*  
the *Take* *explores*  
the *Take* *explores*

controversy that Moore’s incendiary style is only one approach. The recent runaway success of Canada’s *The Corporation*, a multi-narrated diagnosis of corporate morality, shows that there’s a new public appetite for political documentaries.

Just as the Internet has democratized information, the availability of low-cost, digital video cameras has spawned a boom in do-it-yourself film making. Klein, author of the best-selling book *No Logo*, and Lewis, former host of CBC News world’s correspondents, are the H Couple of the anti-globalization movement. They spent two years making *The Take* with a largely inexperienced crew of activists. It seemed she wrote the script. “We had no idea what it meant to make a film,” says Lewis. “We got way over our heads and had to learn to be filmmakers on the way out. We didn’t set out to make a film about occupied factories. But Argentina felt like a laboratory. We knew it was a good place to have a couple of cameras.”

Another emerging talent at Hot Docs, documentary daredevil Morgan Spurlock, turned his own body into a laboratory. The affable American, who’s like a hapless, girly in *Man on the Moon* in *Super Size Me*, was doing an experiment in which he lives as an all-McDonald’s diet for an entire month.

New North America’s leading documentary fests, Hot Docs devoted some complimentary pages of journalism. They ranged from *The Origins of AIDS*, a shocking expedition into a scientific heart of darkness, to *Searching for the River God*, a half-century trip into the paleo past and ballistics of the Amazon. *Deep South*, a digital video tale of moral travel with a sleek sense of sublimation, is a tale that can slip across borders and pose over the capitalist boom. In *After World Remains*, a U.S. at a capitalist’s endgame pattering of theories



**WORKERS** *fight* *no*  
*control* *in* *The* *Take*  
*workers* *just* *fight* *in*  
*Lipstick* *&* *Dynamite*

reacting to smuggled footage of the Doha Lame, in *Control*, a film of a backstage view of Arab journalism at the al-Jazeera news channel, jostling with U.S. military PR flacks in Iraq during the wige of Baghdad.

The new documentaries have a you are there immediacy, delivering the sense of unfiltered experience promised by reality TV. But one of the most powerful stories in Hot Docs was in a more traditional vein. *The Origins of AIDS* assembles a roster of scrupulous researchers into an astonishing detective story. This Canada-France coproduction re-creates the possibility that the AIDS epidemic was triggered by U.S. scientists who treated close to a million Africans with an experimental pedi-

cine during the 1950s. Picking up the thread from author Edward Hooper (*The River: A Journey to the Source of HIV and AIDS*), it shows how the Atlantic community could risk against him in an apparent cover up. While scientist Hilary Koprowski and Paul Orometh deny misadventuring the vaccine in the far west Belgian Congo with mixed dispassionate badinage, the filmmakers track down lab workers who contradict them with eyewitness testimony. The film concludes there’s no absolute proof the vaccine caused AIDS. But its even-handed tone only makes the circumstantial evidence that much more persuasive.

Not all docs are of such earth-shattering import. Ruth Laizer’s *Lipstick & Dynamite*, *Go or Vagone*. *The First Ladies of Whoreing* offers a fascinating portrait of the tough broads who trailblazed “girl working” during the ‘40s and ‘50s, in a world of new freedoms where one prostitute saw his adapted teenage daughter die in the ring. The film runs between archival footage and fresh interviews with these dames—pre-adolescent pin-ups who were treated like adults but had no teen ladies.

Then there’s *Metaphor*. Some kind of *Metaphor*, about a contemporary carnival. In this 140-minute epic, filmmaker Bruce Slayfield and Joe Rafferty (brother’s keeper) spend two years with the world’s heaviest metal band while wondering (going through) and struggling to record his few others in six years. As a lead singer warbles into rebels and the drummer declares war on Napster, the film has some juicy moments, but it eventually melts into an unmemorable *Spinal Tap*. If these guys were slightly smarter, the movie might be a lot shorter.

Searching for the Whore God (and offers a more intriguing odyssey to the mystical territories of America. Director Andrew Douglas and musician Jim White drift a boat up Chesapeake through the South with a concrete sense of Jesus seeking out the mark. They cruise a hard-rock underworld



where the secular and spiritual are joined at the hip—a trailer park, a truck stop, a coal mine, a prison, a Pentecostal church. With dramatic musical interludes by the likes of David Johansen and banjo virtuoso Lee Scruggs, the film dissolves the borders between story and song, poetry and anthropology in an atmospheric haze of pure evocation. *Daughters & White House* is not to grind, but in tracing early America's southern fried fundamentalist roots, they go a long way toward exploring a culture that mystifies much of the world.

By contrast, *Tiber: When Remains of Us* delivers an unequivocal message, one in which religion and politics are fused in a vision of millennial tragedy. Kalsang Dolma, a young Tibetan woman from Montreal, struggles a digital video player into Tibet with a five-minute message from the country's leader-in-exile, the Dalai Lama—his final "appearance" in his homeland since going into exile in 1959. She shows it to ripe spectators huddled in tents, buskers and mountaineers while a grainy DV camera—also arranged in—records their hushed, fearful reactions. The National Film Board production, from Montreal director François Perreault and Hugo Landry, is an extraordinary document. There's a compelling beauty to the images—the broad, hand-drawn faces of Tibetans encountered by a tiny screen, tableaux of peasants and monks in scenic, hazy, rainbow-hued light of prayer flags snapping in a hard blue Himalayan wind.

But Dolma, an unsentimental narrator who doesn't share the Dalai Lama's optimism, threads the film with a brutal sense of history. Viewing UN headquarters, she surveys war bands of archive documents: a half century of oppression and genocide in Tibet—the cinematic details of her nation's imminent extinction carefully preserved at 25 minutes per century. "For China, Tibet has become a gold mine and a garbage dump," she declares, noting that a silent campaign of Chinese settlement has made Tibet's indigenous people a minority in their own country in one troubling moment, after settling at the Dalai Lama's behest: arrive on the Sony DVD player, a Tibet peasant says, "This machine is truly magical." And the beauty of a people's fate comes into the camera, as the modern trumps the magical and technology appears to offer the lost world in transcendence. **D**



## TAKING BITES OUT OF THE FAST FOOD NATION

In *Super Size Me*, a healthy young man with a vegan chef girlfriend chucks his body into the grinder by ingesting nothing but McDonald's for a month as *Go Further*, a junk-food addict boards a hemp-fueled bus with actor-activist Woody Herman and tries to generate a purely vegan diet without dying of boredom. *Super Size Me* is a first look directed by an American, Morgan Spurlock, who serves as the star of his own experiment. So *Further* comes from Canadian documentary veteran Ken Mertz, who steps on the addle. **B+**

This documentary nudges us to ask: America in need from corporate direction?

his ego get in the way, and he frames his stuff with a smart, well-researched inquiry into obesity in America and fast food's stronghold in schools. It's not a pretty picture. With shots of Spurlock losing his lunch, the filmmaking can be as cheesy as the food. But this is one gross-out comedy that parents may want to drag their panic-inflected kids to.

Because *Go Further* tries to portray alternatives—veganism, fasting, cycling, environmentalism, yoga—it's a more earnest endeavor. But with Mertz's expert touch, it's also a more sophisticated look. **B**

lyrically documentary. *Man, Is That Pure* is creating well-looked theatrical docs with lush soundscapes. Unlike his previous films, which include *Don't Eat the Pictures!*, *Twist and Shout*—this is not another archival trip through the counterculture world. It simply chronicles a first-hand road trip with a contemporary band of merry pranksters, whose a 2,000-mile, bar-fueled bus ride down America's Pacific Coast Highway. *Man, Is That Pure* is a great look, but there's some fun in watching his little living hell, Steve Clark, look for looks from an awkward chocolate-waiver pet. And as the camera rolls across a panorama of environmental rape and capture—taking musical pit stops with Natalie Merchant and the Grateful Dead's Bob Weir—the ride is never boring.

BRAND X. JOHNSON

# I GOT 'THIS BEAUTIFUL BUTT'

A *Hairspray* star reflects on playing a female—and on the power of musicals

**BY DAY**, Ray BrazEAU is a veteran Canadian actor with a list of *theatre*, television and film credits a mile long (you may recognize him from *Hand on the Pump* or *Star Trek: Voyager*). By night, he's Edna Turnblad, one of the big-haired, bodacious stars of *Hairspray*, the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical opening on May 5 at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto. Based on the 1988 John Waters film of the same name, *Hairspray* is the story of a chubby teenage girl, Tracy Turnblad (played by Vanessa Hudgens of *American Idol* fame), who battles the discrimination and racial aggression on what is otherwise the coolest TV variety show in '60s Baltimore.

BrazEAU, 36, is already generating buzz for his turn as Tracy Turnblad's larger-than-life mother, a role first performed in the film by the legendary transvestite Divine. Recently, he spoke with *Manhattan's* Associate Editor Luanne George about being a man trapped in women's clothing and how *What Side Story* can change your life.

**Historically, you're specialized in drama and comedy, but you're also doing some musicals. Are you a fan of that genre?**

Some people hate musicals. I'm sure you've met them. They say, "Eh, I'm fine until the soundtrack begins!" But when it was all over, musicals changed my whole life. I grew up in a tough part of Wexford. One time, my friends and I all heard there was a movie showing about gangs called *What Side Story*. So we thought, "Gangs—hey, cool. Fight!" So we went to buy our tickets. We all went to watch and, after a while, someone said, "Hey, these guys are dancing. They're doing a great thing—what kind of gang movie is this? Let's go home here." Except I said, "Well, I already paid the money, you know." I stayed and I did it with a friend. *What Side Story* was an incredible experience.

**With the runaway success of recent Broadway productions like *The Producers*, *Mean Streets* and**



*BrazEAU* likes the show's 'blend in the human spirit, whether you're fat, gay, Black

and now *Hairspray*, some critics are heralding a bit of a renaissance in musical theatre. **Would you agree?**

I think things are really coming to change. For a long time, Andrew Lloyd Webber was just kicking me with *The Phantom of the Opera* and all these "operettas," or whatever they call them, that were westerns to be going back to good-old American musicals like *Grease*, *Chicago*, with shows like *Chicago*, which just ran at the Biltmore Hotel Theatre, and *Cats* at the Gaiety, playing at the New Yorker Theatre, there are some real live ones in the town.

**During the course of its run in New York, *Hairspray* won eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical. What's the appeal?**  
One of the best things about being in *Hairspray* is that I really like the message of the piece—what it says to us without having people over the head. It's the belief in the human spirit, whether you're fat, gay, Black or whatever you are. I try to reach that to my own kids every day. I say, "I don't care if you're a nuclear scientist or a garbage man, as long as you're a good human being."

**How are you enjoying your first foray into musical theatre?**

I loved *Star Trek* as a young boy, I thought maybe it's time to get out of the old cove and try something new. Actually, I'm loving it. They gave me this beautiful hat and these beautiful flowers and an even bigger belly than I already have. I'm like a walking refrigerator. It's heavy, but it hides the character so much. The costumes are the best I've ever had. I feel like a combination of Betty of *Hello Dolly* and Divine.

**Did you ever aspire to be a star? What was your aspiration for this role?**

The first person who came to mind was the woman named Edna. She was finding women—as big as Edna—with a little resemblance to the girls to fight with her kids and they'd hate under the bed and she would grab or dump but she could never reach them. That's what I thought of.

**Are you finding Edna to be a more challenging role than you anticipated?**

The challenge is not to play a drag queen, but to play a mother. The audience has a real life, even though they look so weird. If people come up and say, "Oh, you played a really good mom," I'd be really happy. That's what it's all about. **D**

# BOOKS AND THE CITY

Finally, Canadian novels that portray the lives of contemporary urbanites

THE MOST remarkable thing about the writer's new Canadian novels is not their gradual failure to appear on best-seller lists. Commercially successful literary fiction may be less successful in terms here than in most countries, but it's still very much a name-recognition business, and there are no really big names on this upstart list. No, what's noteworthy about the new fiction is how much of it is urban and present-day in its settings, an anomaly in a literature largely obsessed with history and immigrant saga. The two phenomena—the modern urban milieu and unpopulated cities—may not be unrelated, of course, given Canada's literary localism with small-town roots and family stories. Even so, it's refreshing to read fictional depictions of how most of us modern-day urbanites that we are—the now.

Colin McLeod's *Some Great Thing* may reach back to the 1970s, but its setting is Ottawa. Don Coles puts his characters in 21st-century Toronto in *After Midnight*. So, as does *Midnight*, although Gordon Strube's recent, edge book could have taken place in any big city. But two novels, Trevor Cole's *Norman Bray* or the *Performance of Me* and Manilla Poir's by Russell Smith, are up to the minute. Toronto isn't the only old-fashioned significant city in the city's down-at-the-heels but artistically lively west end. There, Cole's rich character lives on nearly 2000 Kensington Avenue, the same street where Smith's artists brag of having obtained studio space.

*Norman Bray* (McClelland & Stewart) is the funniest book on offer, despite strong competition from *Midnight*. Strube's in-the-know probability helped his with readership in the past, and Cole's more genteel wit isn't his least novel asset. But for anyone who can safely lose oneself from afar, his main character—a 56-year-oldish actor and member of self-absorbed capitalism—is endlessly entertaining. Norman's career in movies, such as it's been—mostly

highlight was playing the lead in *Killer in Calgary's* Foodies Theatre in the mid-1970s—is completely finished.

Now he's lost in his longings, as the voice of Tony in *They Don't*, a third-rate indie show Norman was offered the part of the office, but summing up all his longings and the lack of self-awareness, he quit. "I'm the lead!" Other characters threaten to crash his awestruck indifference. His sister, who used to share his disability periods during Norman's lengthy periods of "rest."

**ROYSTON** is almost Shakespearean in his dread that advancing age will empty him out artistically and sexually

has no time for him now that she has found a lover. A banker wants to lose love on the house since Norman has ignored his mortgage payments for a year. (He informed his boss from his self-indulgent opinion-law wife, and was—until the rule shock of the foreclosure notice—blithely unaware of the very concept of mortgages.)

In short, Norman is the author of this story.

spectacular crash like Cole creates, with a delicate touch and fine writing, that we do not wholeheartedly cheer his come-uppance. He may be the self-absorbed lead, the sole talent around whom the rest of the world must revolve, but Norman has his good points too. He has never felt poor or depressed despite a career that others find noble. When a counsellor from the bank talks of the "basic necessities of living," Norman wonders if "art" or "the pursuit of knowledge" are included.

How subtle, Cole uses the increasing demands of his other characters to indicate that Norman is not so far beyond the pale after all. Besides, Norman slowly begins to realize that there are other people in the world. He usually acts as unhappy person what's wrong. "Is anything he can't remember, but over riding before." The performance of his life has been for him a masterpiece. For Norman *Bray* the artist, but *Norman Bray* the novel is a triumph for Trevor Cole.

Compared to Norman, Cole's Strube's protagonist: McKenna has real problems, very few of which are her own fault. As an unfocused single mother who was abused as a child, McKenna has a well-adjusted husband (fading from Ivan Charles, a manic depressive, the sudden care of her abusive father after



his stroke, and a precocious but understandably anxiety-ridden eight-year-old daughter. Oh, and on the first page of *Midnight* (Thomas Allen) a truck runs into her house, completely destroying it and giving McKenna a concussion that leaves her colour-blind—a particularly unfortunate decision for a short story. It's a very funny, if your mind moves in certain channels, but it's also painful, wrong, almost glass-sharp tale of mother love.

McKenna hates herself with a dedication that only unloved children can bring to their adult lives. "You self-loathing becomes a kind of religion," she mutters. "You find the worse side and loathe it." Daughter Logan finally saved her mother's life, merely "by

Cole offers a very funny and subtle story of an actor whose life is crashing around him

explaining himself in my terms." But that painfully crafted equilibrium is now on the verge of shattering as McKenna struggles to earn living and Logan, trained by a pedophile daycare worker, tries to drown herself. That Strube can take the undercurrent of rage that fuels this *Midnight* from *Book* like literary offenders and craft a conclusion that is both believable and hopeful is a remarkable literary feat.

Russell Smith's Toronto could be an archer ghost from Strube's *Manilla Poir* (Doubleday), Smith's third novel, an oddity compelling book. As a satire it isn't wrong,

mostly because its main target—aging hip and youthful dissonance, politically correct hip bureaucrats and their grant-farmers—applicants are encouraged to discuss their ethnicity or sexual orientation under the heading *Disabilities*—have been so long and so well thought out it hardly seems worth looking them again. That said, near the end of the novel Smith does perform a particularly deft skewering of a new character—a wealthy, blushing Regina academic who arrives in the big city following about Toronto to continue and the clearing of regional veins. Dr. Winthrop is more than a little concerned, in his opinion, if not his person, of accident and crisis Stephen Houghton, whose similar argument in his essay collection *When Words Die* the World grasped a essay interlude with Smith two years ago.

But as a novel of manners about ambitious young downers of an artistic bent, *Manilla Poir* is subtle and amusing. And in its depiction of one exceptional character, Caribbean poet Marcus Royston, it is very good indeed. *Manilla Poir* is a well off but lonely middle-aged widow, an unnamed number of very nice characters. Her life is so rich until an unexpected catalyst in the form of Royston—witty, sophisticated and more English than the English—comes to stay with her as a visiting writer. Completely unloved, Royston hasn't published in years, but he remains a compelling figure, almost Shakespearean in his dread that advancing age will empty him out artistically and sexually. In the same way that his fearful personality empties them into a new approximation of art (and life), the poet reveals to have with the purest conventional expectations.

In one of Smith's more intriguing themes, Royston views Canada and his home land of St. Andrew's as equivalent but soles, a pair of post-colonial British subjects. This infuriates his back, who see Canada and Britain as the advanced countries and Royston's island as the supplicant backwater, mired in poverty and racism. As a black man, Royston is trained to hold certain opinions, particularly about a writer's duty to champion the marginalized, his robust belief that his duty is only to his art is the intellectual heart of the novel.

Poetry runs through Colin McLeod's *Some Great Thing* (McClelland & Stewart), in the rhythmic speech of builder McGowan. A driven planner named Jerry in 1970s Ontario, where the rapidly expanding civil service

## HERE AND NOW | Tales of the way we live today



*Some Great Thing*  
by Colin  
McLeod  
Random House  
\$24.95



*Manilla Poir*  
by Russell  
Smith  
Doubleday  
Canada  
\$21.95



*After Midnight*  
by Gordon  
Strube  
Thomas Allen  
\$22.95



*Beverly Brown*  
by Gordon  
Strube  
Knapf Canada  
\$24.95



*Norman Bray*  
by Trevor Cole  
McClelland &  
Stewart  
\$24.95



# NO LATE FEES WITH ON-LINE DVD RENTAL

Life is rarely enough to hold yourself up about getting movie rentals back on time. So why's better than a service that eliminates the late penalty charge? How about one that delivers DVDs right to your door?

Several new web-based services are quickly going after the \$5-a-day film rental market by offering movie fans monthly membership plans, which enable them to choose from thousands of titles—Hollywood flicks, documentaries, TV shows—that arrive in the mailbox a few days later. In the U.S., where on-line rentals have taken off much faster, the poster kids for the new upstart are now Web-based services, and even Blockbuster may enter the fray.

In Canada, the current players are largely international veterans, but competition is heating up. We tested four services, arriving here a lot of 14 movies—including new releases, classics, Canadian

productions and obscure indie titles—to test inventory depth. After clipping up 10 usually takes more than half an hour to fill out the on-line form, but approval is instantaneous, we browsed the site and selected titles in order of priority. All services delivered the first batch of three movies within three to four days.

**THE VERDICT:** The upside is, you get to keep the DVDs (sorry, no video) as long as you want, when you've returned them, three more from your list are sent your way. The downside: You have to forgo the instant gratification of picking a flick based on your mood this night (even you must plan ahead), and handling your own credit card and personal info to a Web site (consider using PayPal but iStockphoto give privacy issues up). **QUICK PICK:** Do.ca gets the nod for best selection, but Web Online was the only one to come through with all-but-five for the first batch.



## WHAT'S IN STORE

Drive an SUV to work and still feel as close to nature? This might do the trick. **hardwood.computer** accessories, priced from \$95 for a mouse to \$1,800 for the fanciest monitor. Don't worry, only the catalogs are low-tech. Available from [www.hardwood.com](http://www.hardwood.com). Shipping is extra.

	FIRST IMPRESSION	HOW IT WORKS	BONUS FEATURES	COST
<b>ZIP.CA</b> ( <a href="http://www.zip.ca">www.zip.ca</a> )	Web site has 600-plus titles in catalogue (plus credit to Cash.ca's largest movie service). Browse 15 categories, new releases and ratings, or search by title.	It had more of the films on our wish list than any of its rivals. It had Canadian content. Also such classics and back catalog titles before new releases we had as priorities.	Includes members' savings on the movies. Also Rental Insurance shows what portion of the title went for loss at time into cash-credit bonus DVD list sent.	\$24 to a month for three DVDs sent at a time. There is a 14-day free trial period.
<b>DVD.RENT</b> ( <a href="http://www.dvdrent.com">www.dvdrent.com</a> )	You can search by title, director or actor and browse among 21 categories, various lists and through upcoming releases.	Had many of the titles on our wish list, and showed one of our top three choices within days. Good inventory of Canadian films and classics, but it doesn't stock The Breakfast Club—what gives?	Members who refer new customers get cash rewards. Recently viewed DVDs are available for sale.	\$24 to a month for three DVDs sent at a time. There is a 14-day free trial period.
<b>WEB ONLINE</b> ( <a href="http://www.webonline.ca">www.webonline.ca</a> )	This exhibitor of a western video store chain has relatively good titles on Canada and U.S. lending is spread on the shelves. Site is easy to navigate with a search engine. (Note: Films, "on-line features.")	The only one to ship all three Hollywood new releases we requested in the first batch including the recent <i>Bad Boys II</i> . It has the smallest inventory overall, though—but does have cult favorites like <i>Yellow Submarine</i> .	The only one to post an easy-to-fill list of its available titles. Customers can refer (however, it's a real only).	Choice of plans, from two DVDs at a time for \$29.95 to a month for \$59.95. It rewards its best for \$24.95 a month. Offers a 14-day free trial period.
<b>HOLLYWOODCA</b> ( <a href="http://www.hollywoodca.com">www.hollywoodca.com</a> )	Chooses to have among the largest inventories on the continent, but with 7,000 titles, it clearly doesn't have a pretty full, with poor browsing features.	Good selection of new and old titles, but two gems—a B-movie remake of <i>Friday</i> (2002).	You can buy new and previously viewed DVDs, but shipping costs extra.	Introductory offer: four DVDs for \$29.95 a month, with an option to upgrade to a 16-disc plan. You can also rent one DVD at a time for \$4.95 a day.

## CLOSING NOTES



## Photography | The Sanchez brothers soak it all in

Darkness engulfs a drowning girl. An unrelenting kitchen sink overflows ominously. Hot water turns to blood on the forehead of a baby being baptized. The hypnotic photographs of white hot artists Carlos and Jesse Sanchez beat the question: what, exactly, is going on here? "We encourage people who look at our photographs to construct their own stories," explains Carlos, 27, the elder of the two Laval, Que.-based brothers.

The siblings' daddy constructs narratives can make movies so intense, including befriending him, working with actors, and overseeing teams of lighting and special effects crew from the film industry. "We worked on one production, *Exile Party*, for over

five months," recalls Jesse, 22. The brothers even sleep in the van, as a pre-bath ritual, although they won't divulge exactly what goes on during these all-night "sessions."

The effort is paying off: The Musée national des beaux-arts de Québec acquired one of the six *Exile Party* prints soon after the photo was unveiled. Following recent shows in Berlin, Strasbourg, New York and Miami, the duo now have a solo exhibition running at Christopher Oates Gallery in Toronto until May 29—accompanied by a monograph on their work. "It's not, really, is going on here is that our young brothers are capturing the world's imagination with their haunting photographs. AMALITHA GUNAWARDENA

CONTACT TORONTO PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL: Mar 1-31. In its eighth year, North America's largest annual photo event features the work of more than 100 national and international photographers at 110 venues, Toronto. [www.conceptphoto.com](http://www.conceptphoto.com). THE 35TH ANNUAL NEW PLAY FESTIVAL ON GRANVILLE ISLAND: May 6-16. Check out previews of new works by Canadian playwrights and take in a lecture with Governor General's Award winner Joan MacLeod. Vancouver: [www.playwrights theatre.com](http://www.playwrights theatre.com). CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL: May 6-24. The world's 10th largest festival features national and international films along a 14-km stretch—as well as concerts by Phil Spector, David Byrne, Audrey Hepburn and many others. Ottawa/Gatineau: [www.festivalcinema.ca](http://www.festivalcinema.ca). CANNES INTERNATIONAL DE THÉÂTRE DE QUÉBEC: May 12-24. Post from 10 diverse producers on their stages and take advantage of discount ticket packages when viewing more than one show. Quebec City: [www.cannesfestivaltheatre.com](http://www.cannesfestivaltheatre.com).





# THE EUROPEAN MIRACLE

In the space of a day, the EU expanded—and the world changed

**"SO MUCH HAS CHANGED,"** Pawel Dobrowolski says. "The problem is whether people know it—fast it. Memory is short."

Dobrowolski is no longer "Look at things from his perspective." In 1979 Dobrowolski was a doctoral student in history at university in Poland, already chafing at his country's Communist regime, already eager to see more of the world. He managed to win admission to study in England. Back then—really not so long ago at all—a simple visa trip through the Iron Curtain earned a measure of peril.

"At the border crossing in former East Germany, you cross at midnight," he remembers. "There's a light in your eye. The Communist guards come with their dogs. They look at your papers. And they can really do whatever they want."

He made it through. Things changed. Today Dobrowolski is Poland's ambassador to Canada. The lovely, gently worn house in Ottawa's Sandy Hill neighborhood that serves as Poland's embassy has two bright new flagpoles on its roof. Starting this week, the flag of the European Union flies next to Poland's.

On May 1, the European Union grew by 10 countries. Greek Cyprus and Malta plus a huge chunk of Central Europe, including Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia. In today's EU's population has grown from 160 million to 450 million.

In Ottawa, European diplomats have been staging one another's entrances, waving the new blue and gold flag atop new flagpoles. And it is discovered when I visited a few weeks they've been pressing to consider the magnitude of what just happened.

"The history of Europe was the history of struggles to establish union by force," France's ambassador, Philippe Godeaux, told me. The names of men who tried are familiar: Napoleon, Bismarck, Hitler, Stalin. "What has happened since the Second World War is unique in the history of the world." Typical French exaggeration? No. Europe faces obvious problems. Rarely



ing a new constitution, a challenge made bigger by Tony Blair's announcement that he'll let Britain decide in a referendum whether he should really. Diplomats in income that make some Western Europeans regard the newly added countries is more of a burden than an opportunity.

Europe craves economic reforms, anti-Protestantism, bureaucracy, political interests, endless meetings. Dobrowolski can tell you all about it. "The acquis communautaire"—the entire body of European law and regulation that must be adopted by new members—is now about 80,000 pages. And this is not the literature.

Mutual suspicion still breaks out among Europe's partners. When France stayed out of George W. Bush's Iraq war and Poland joined, the political debate got pretty hot. Newspapers in French issued around, conversely, the accusation that Poland was a "the just home" trying to reach American values

into Fortress Europe. The quarrel still hasn't calmed down entirely. Dobrowolski says many Poles still feel that their unreliable professor is the United States, and that Poles haven't forgotten their "historical misdeeds"—or, let's be frank, historical betrayal—by the French, the British, during the Second World War and after.

For his part, Godeaux admits it's "normal" that Poles and other Eastern Europeans have "stayed in mindless from the Second World War." But he hopes a few years' worth of endless meetings in Brussels will give the Union's new members "a true perception of their interests."

These problems can look insurmountable. That's because memory is short. Current constitutional strife is permeated by historic terms. The constitution Poland adopted in 1991 was extraordinarily enlightened—so much so for the neighbors that promptly dismantled the country. Poland vanished from the map for a century. "Typical Polish problem," Dobrowolski says.

What do the new European partners mean for Canada? Opportunity. Set up shop in Poland, pay a corporate tax of only 19 per cent, and you can sell your products to a market of nearly half a billion people.

What did that part of the world owe to Canada? Slavery in no world was. The threat of Annapolis for decades after. As recently as the 1950s, I told Dobrowolski, 15,000 Canadian soldiers and civilians lived in Germany, waiting to be repatriated. Polish invaders. "The German communist era," "The Black Book of the Warsaw Pact, Poland's job was to take Denmark."

Later, I looked up the place. One opinion called for a series of nuclear strikes against targets in Denmark and northern Germany. It was 60,000 pages of regulations a problem? When you look at what it has replaced, it's more like a miracle.

No comment background information on Road Paul Wells is looking. "Without Wells," at [www.meridianradio.com](http://www.meridianradio.com)

HOLDING A MOVE LIKE THIS IS

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